

The objective of the project is to model and analyze a moderately large Operations Research problem. Students will work in groups, and will identify a problem to work on, in consultation with the instructor.

Timeline

The project will proceed in two stages: the project proposal on Friday, February 15th, and a the final presentation, on Wednesday, April 3rd or Friday, April 5th. The projects will have both a written and an oral presentation component. Detailed requirements and a marking rubric will be distributed for each stage. The final report will be written in \LaTeX .

Teams

Teams are formed by the instructor, with some input from the class.

Problem Selection

The ideal project is something local which is relevant to your daily life. Examples might include, for instance, scheduling exams at SFU¹ or staff at a nearby small business. You can find examples of past projects from Math 208W and 402W in the *Analytics Now* booklets published by the SFU O.R. Student Union. Copies of these are available on-line at <http://journals.lib.sfu.ca/index.php/analytics-now/index>. You might also look at the “Models for Practical Problems” in Chapters 13 and 14 of the textbook *Optimization Modelling: A Practical Approach* by Sarker and Newton. These books are on reserve at the library, and the Sarker and Newton can also be accessed on-line through the library.

One key issue in selecting the project is to make sure that the data (inputs) to the model are readily available. It would certainly be nice to use real data, but given the brief nature of this project, we will likely have to find a reasonable approximation.

Groups should consult with the instructor in selecting the problem.

¹Although this has already been done too often.