CS 15 Pair Programming Guidelines

This document has been adapted from the CS 40 webpage.

Pair programming is an educational, productive, and fun experience. It allows partners to design, implement, and debug programs in a way that is faster, smarter, and easier than doing it alone. For those of you going on to take CS 40, you'll find this experience will help prepare you, as all assignments in CS 40 use pair programming. And pair programming is not just for students—professionals do it too!

For your final project, you are required to work with a partner. There are a few guidelines you should be aware of before you get started. The bullet points below summarize the CS 15 course policies on pair programming.

- **Pair programming is required for the final project.** You cannot opt-out, even if you feel you don't need a partner. Exceptions to this rule are rare, e.g., if you will be out of town for most of the time that the project is out. If you feel an exception is warranted for your case, please reach out to the course staff.

- **Choosing partners:** You will be responsible for choosing your own partner. It is essential that you and your partner have compatible schedules, as you will be required to do all work together. If you are having trouble finding a partner, you can make a public Piazza post. This post should include a description of your general weekly availability, so that you can find a partner with a similar schedule.

- **Partners must do *all* work together.** You cannot divide the work—both partners must be present for all designing, implementing, testing, and documenting of your program. This rule will be strictly enfoced—we will not provide project help for students in office hours if they show up without their partner. You can work together on Zoom if need be, but in general, we recommend working together in person.

- **My partner got sick, left town, dropped the course, etc.** If one member is unavailable for only a brief amount of time (e.g., a couple days), you must work together to find a schedule that works. You can also use tokens for short-term extensions. For longer-term or more serious disruptions, you can reach out to the instructor and course staff to discuss your situation.

- **How will tokens work?** Only one of you will be submitting your project—this will be the student whose tokens you use. Remember, you can use a maximum of two tokens for an assignment.

- **Sharing code:** Only one of you will submit the final assignment, but both of you should have access to your code at all times. It is up to you to decide how you will share your code. This is a good opportunity to learn your way around `git`, an open source *version control* system. `git` repositories are hosted on website like GitHub and GitLab. In fact, all Tufts CS students already have a GitLab account! You can sign in using your CS username and password at https://gitlab.cs.tufts.edu. Note: whether you use a `git` repository or something else to share code, **you must ensure that all code is kept private**. Failure to do so may constitute an academic integrity violation.

- **CS 40 Pair Programming Code of Conduct:** We highly recommend that you read CS 40's Pair Programming Code of Conduct, all of which applies in our course. It contains useful guidance on effectively programming as a team, and importantly, on working together with mutual respect.