

What to expect for the Midterm Paper

❑ FORMAT:

- Microsoft Word (or equivalent)-- PDF of WORD File is acceptable

❑ LENGTH:

- Paper should be at least 6 pages (excluding references, appendices, and cover page), single-spaced, in 12-point type (Times New Roman font), single column with standard margins (1" top and bottom, 1.25" left and right)
 - This is just a suggestion– you will not lose points for using a different font or different margins; we will CONVERT your paper to this format to evaluate your paper's content!

❑ DELIVERY:

- Paper must be submitted via Desire to Learn (D2L) system no later than **July 11 2023, Midnight Pacific Time**
- Links for submitting the assignments will be available under the "Assignment" section of D2L (<http://courses.uscden.net>)

❑ GRADING:

- A good paper grade requires writing a paper that is instructive or of general interest to system architects and engineers, including those who may not be necessarily knowledgeable about the hypothetical new system

- ❑ **Combine and integrate** the content of your five homework assignments into a cohesive paper that describes how an architecting process can lead to an architecture for the hypothetical new system
 - You should incorporate any feedback given regarding your homework
- ❑ **Focus on the Architecture and the Architecting Process, not the design and elements of the system**
 - Not required, but it's OK to show hypothetical design & elements to help in describing the architecture and the architecting process
- ❑ **No specific OUTLINE is required, however the Paper must have:**
 - A Title Page
 - An Abstract
 - Architectural Analysis, starting with a description and intended use of the hypothetical new system, and presenting a coherent story
 - A Conclusion or Summary
 - References (either as Footnotes on bottom of pages or as a List of Citations at the end of the Paper), including applicable class Lectures and Readings
 - Any Appendices are Optional

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References and Citations

- ❑ A list of references is essential
- ❑ Make sure you properly and appropriately cite lecture notes and readings
 - The exact format of citations/references is flexible as long as you adhere to consistent professional standards (see www.bibme.org for examples)
 - You are not required to cite/reference your Homework assignment responses as they were developed for this class (unless your Homework responses drew text from the class lectures and readings, in which case you should reference those lecture notes and readings)
- ❑ All the text that you turn in that comes from somewhere else must be marked as a quotation (*including from other papers that you wrote!*)
- ❑ All the ideas that you turn in that come from someone else must be cited
- ❑ Do NOT quote excessive amount of text from lectures and references as this may detract from your paper's grade

Cautions Regarding Your **USC Viterbi** SAE 549 Midterm Paper

School of Engineering
Systems Architecting and Engineering

- ❑ There have been previous attempts of students to copy someone else's text into their papers or homework!
 - Never copy text into your file without marking it with a citation
 - Never attempt to copy text into your file and then “edit it into your own words”
- ❑ The default punishment for plagiarism by a graduate student is failing the course, and expulsion is possible
- ❑ Midterm paper will be checked via automated similarity scanning software
 - The system will compare your paper with its database and all internet sources and will compute a similarity percentage
 - High similarity percentage (above 25%) will have major negative impact on your paper grade
 - The system *will discover* any attempt to copy from other sources!
- ❑ Midterm Paper submission after the deadline (**July 11 2023, Midnight Pacific Time**) gets an automatic F on the midterm paper grade

Questions Regarding the Midterm Paper?

- ❑ If you have any question regarding the Midterm Paper:
 - DO NOT call or e-mail questions!
 - Please use the Midterm Paper Discussion Board BEFORE the Due Date
 - Remember that all questions and all answers will be visible to all students, so please be sure to review the Midterm Paper Discussion Board before submitting your midterm paper!
 - We will attempt to answer questions in a timely manner but you will likely NOT receive a quick answer!
 - Please do not ask for instructor or student review of outlines, partial drafts, or midterm papers