

MSE 407 Materials Lab I – Spring 2013 Lab Notebook and Report Grading Rubric

Overview:

Lab notebooks are graded out of 20 possible points, and you may earn up to 5 points in each of 4 categories. PreLab reports are graded out of 25 possible points, with 5 points available in each of 5 categories. Lab reports are graded out of 50 possible points, with 5 points available in each of 10 categories. Point values are:

Unacceptable (0 points): Required elements missing or absent, or inclusion of non-original work evident.

Poor (1 points): Major errors, significant failure to follow instructions, incorrect statements or assertions.

Marginal (2 point): Significant errors (or numerous minor errors), poor job of following instructions, incomplete elements, weak or partially incorrect statements

Average (3 points): Several minor errors or gaps present, instructions followed completely and correctly. No significant incorrect or incomplete statements or assertions.

Very Good (4 points): Meets all requirements. All statements and assertions are complete and correct, however may lack full depth of understanding.

Excellent (5 points): Meets or exceeds all expectations and requirements. All statements and assertions are strongly substantiated with insightful discussion and detailed analysis presented.

The minimum passing grade is 50% of points possible, and represents an average of no less than 2.5 points per graded element. The remaining grading scale is as follows:

- A – greater than 4.0 per element
- B – 3.5 or higher per element
- C – 3.0 or higher per element
- D – 2.5 or higher per element

Usage:

Instructors read through the text marking areas of strength or deficiency. Descriptive comments are encouraged. Where a deficiency is noted, the instructor includes the two-number code indicating which rubric sub-element is deficient at that point. For example, if the instructor notes a section of text where the description of experimental procedure is not concise, the instructor will, at minimum, circle the relevant text, and indicate “6.1” in the margin. Where appropriate the instructor may also make a comment providing more explanation. On the rubric itself, the instructor will indicate a score out of five for element 6, “Description of Methods and Experimental Procedures”. If the deficiency marked in the report text for sub-element 6.1 necessitates a deduction in score for element 6, the instructor will circle sub-element 6.1 on the rubric. This allows the student to (i) understand which specific elements and sub-elements of the report were deficient, and (ii) locate the specific text passage(s) exhibiting deficiency.