PROFESSIONALISM

The professionalism portion of the course grade is intended to motivate students to think more about the impact of their questions before asking them. Unprofessional interactions consume time yet have no meaningful benefits. In the workplace, wasting time of your colleagues, your supervisors or your supervisor’s supervisor will only discount you. When you are discounted, you just won’t be invited for new opportunities that you may or may not be aware of. Everyone has responsibilities, and interruptions delay completion of those responsibilities. If the interruption has a tangible benefit of progress, all is well.

2% of the course grade is to account for demonstrating maturity and professionalism. By default, every student is assumed to be professionally mature and hence this component is awarded to every student at the beginning of the quarter. During the quarter, based on observations by the teaching staff and instructor, which includes but is not limited to one on one personal interactions, Piazza Q&A posts, and follow ups with your grader, your professionalism credit may be deducted in steps of 1%.

Interactions with MEANINGFUL benefits (no deduction from professionalism) include results that provide:
- deeper insight into course material, course concepts, computer science and technology
- clarification of course notes
- assistance getting started, developing solutions and resolving programming problems
- improvement in skill building and future opportunities
- learning why full credit wasn’t awarded where grading comments were insufficient
- increase in points >= 1% of the course grade
- increase in points < 1% of the course grade after grades appear on TritonLink
- reporting errors or problems in labs, assignments, computer account or with the PAgrader

Interactions that have NO meaningful benefits (professionalism deduction) that should be AVOIDED include:
- use of ELECTRONICS during lecture (coding, social media,...) versus attention to learning presented lecture material
- increase in points < 1% of overall course grade before grades appear TritonLink
- disputes about point deductions claiming they are too severe for mistake or oversight
- questions asked electronically before first performing electronic search
- asking questions when the information will eventually be known (such as how many questions are on the exam?)
- ignoring the directions or requests of the course staff
- asking for points and telling us you don't need the points if they end up being < 1% of the overall course grade

Examples:
- "When will grades get posted to TritonLink or is there another way to know how +/- are assigned?"
- "Will this class/exam be curved? What will be considered an [insert grade]"
- Problem: Impatience. Asking when the grades will be posted doesn't help them get posted any faster. Responding to this question has no benefit since this information will eventually be known.
- "I know I made a mistake by being careless and not checking my code before I turned it in, but can you please reduce the amount of deduction?"
- Problem: All assignments have been graded by tutors based on a rubric made and reviewed by the course staff. This means that deductions are made when the course staff has determined the mistakes demonstrate a lack of understanding, effort, or polish in a particular assignment and for that reason do not meet the standards of the course (likely meaning they would not meet industry standards). Asking for points back without a reason is decreasing your overall learning and asking for points that have not been earned.
- "How can I get those points back by showing my code on my account is different than the one that was graded?"
- Problem: The code presented to the grader is the last code submitted before the deadline. Any code edited after that time was changed after the deadline, or was not submitted and therefore cannot be considered in the course grade.

The bottom line: If an interaction has a benefit to you and your learning, then all is well. If the interaction has no benefit to you, then you should spend your time in more meaningful ways.