

Forming Project Teams

SECT.01.2026

- Survey Results
- Quick Pitches
- Discussion

Tips from Last Year

- Prioritize what you want to learn & do in this course. **Find something you care about!**
- Discuss potential roles upfront, avoid creating a team where everyone has the same goals.
- What you build will be guided by user research, so focus on general ideas: **problems and audience.**
- Working with friends has upsides & downsides. Some teams said it was the best experience of their time in CAPP. One team struggled immensely because they weren't aligned on anything other than being friends.
- If you have major scheduling challenges (e.g. can't meet at all on Fridays-- be direct! don't wind up on a team where everyone else needs to meet on Friday, not good for anyone)

Survey Results

(22 respondents)

Roles

- QA Engineer (6)
- Project Management (7)
- UI/UX Design (7)
- Frontend Developer (13)
- Backend Developer / Data Engineer (19)

Shouldn't be too hard, but make sure your team has someone that wants to do each role!

Technology

Almost everyone: R, SQL.

- JavaScript (8)
- HTML/CSS (7)
- Lots of other languages at 1-2

Stick to Python, R, SQL, JavaScript to avoid situations where only one person can contribute. Try to get at least one JS person on your team!

Want to Learn/Use

- React (4)
- Docker/DevOps (4)
- Django (3)
- D3 (3)
- UI Design (3)

I'll teach some Django & a frontend JS framework (probably not React) in some extracurricular sessions if there's interest.

LLM Usage

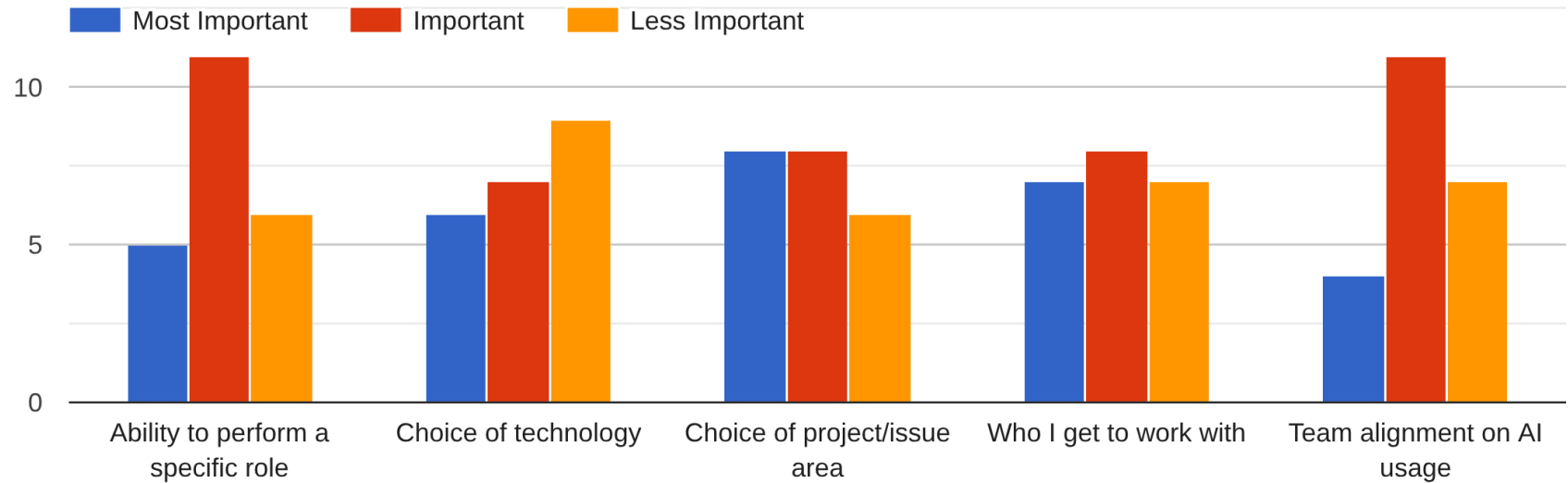
- Would like to use LLMs to generate code in moderation. (18)
- Would like to use LLMs to fullest extent (2)
- Would prefer not to use LLMs (2)

Additionally: a few people expressed strong opinions in the written portion about not relying on things like Claude Code/ensuring every team member understands their code.

Discuss what in moderation means to you! For those that do not want any/that want a lot-- particularly important. Take a quick temperature check now on Claude Code/automated coding tools-- you'll set a team rule later as well.

What Matters?

What matters most to you for your project team this quarter?



Ideas

- OpenPeru
- Wealth Predictor w/ satellite data/surveys;
university/student matching
- Bot Accounts on TikTok
- Gas price spikes

Other Preferences

- Large Data Set / Interesting Data Engineering
Problem (3)
- Privacy/ Security / Anti-surveillance (3)
- Real Users (3)
- Democracy/Politics (3)
- Climate (3)
- Make use of AI to process data (3)
- Compelling Visualizations (2)
- Healthcare (2)
- Prefer not to rely on users (2)

Quick Pitches

What do you want to work on?

What matters to you on a team?

Next Week

Human-Centered Design

A few (short!) required readings for context: <https://notes.jpt.sh/30320#week-2---designing-for-the-public>