

CS445 / SE463 / ECE 451 / CS645
Software requirements specification
& analysis

Not Sure What It Does

Fall 2026

Daniel Berry

Not Sure What It Does

“But, we’re not ready to write the requirements. We’re not 100% certain about what we want to build.”

I hear this all the time as the reason not to write a requirements specification.

Huh????

Actually

“But, we’re not ready to write the requirements. We’re not 100% certain about what we want to build.”

This is a good reason not to begin to implement.

But, I see people push through to implement anyway, because the deadline is approaching!

We know that this is a good recipe for delivering late.

On the Contrary

“But, we’re not ready to write the requirements. We’re not 100% certain about what we want to build.”

This is not only *not* a reason *not* to start doing requirements analysis, ...

it is actually the *very* reason to *start* doing requirements analysis, ...

to learn and then be more certain about what you want to build!

But But But

“But but but, we’re never 100% certain about what we want to build.”

This is true, but did that ever stop you from starting to implement when the deadline is looming?

and then delivering late.

Maybe, by taking the time to do requirements analysis, we delay implementation until we can finish it on time!

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