

# Course Syllabus

**Welcome to CSC108!** This course provides an Introduction to Computer Programming. By the end of this course, you should be comfortable programming in Python, understand why good style is critical, and be familiar with core computer science topics like algorithms and complexity.

**The material posted on Quercus is required reading.** It contains important information: links to assignment handouts, the policy on missed work, links to the online discussion forum (Piazza), the announcements page, and more. **You are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and on Quercus.**



**[Instructors and Lectures](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#instructors)**  
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**[Special Consideration](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#special)**  
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<p><a href="#">ges/course-syllabus#recordings</a>)</p> <p><b>Office Hours</b> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#officehours">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#officehours</a>)</p>	<p><a href="#">syllabus#assignments</a>)</p> <p><b>Tests</b> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#tests">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#tests</a>)</p> <p><b>Final Exam</b> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#final_exam">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#final_exam</a>)</p>		<p>y)</p> <p><b>For Assignments</b> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#assignments">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#assignments</a>)</p> <p><b>For Tests</b> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#tests">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#tests</a>)</p> <p><b>For Other Coursework</b> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#other">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus#other</a>)</p>
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## Instructors and Lectures

### Lecture Schedule

Instructor	Sections	Locations
Shiva Akbari	LEC5101: W 6 pm- 9pm	<a href="#">MP 203</a>

Email : [csc108-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu](mailto:csc108-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu) (<mailto:csc108-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu>)

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## Lecture Recordings

We plan to post a recording of one section of the course each week, for students who may have to miss for illness or other personal reasons. However, we very strongly discourage using the recordings in place of attending class on a regular basis. In our experience, students who do not regularly attend live lectures do not do as well in the course as those who do, and are more likely to drop or fail.

To access the recordings, click on the OCCS Student App in the navigation bar on the left.

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## Office Hours

Each week instructors and teaching assistants (TAs) hold office hours. You may attend office hours held by any CSC108 TA or instructor (not just your own).

Office hours will be held primarily in person but some online office hours will be available. You do not need an appointment, you can simply show up and join the queue for help. Office hours are intended for you to ask questions about course material. Questions related to administrative or personal issues should be sent to the course email address instead.

[More details including the Office Hours calendar](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/office-hours)  
(<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/office-hours>)

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## Textbook (Optional)

The textbook, *Practical Programming (3rd ed): An Introduction to Computer Science Using Python 3*, is available as an eBook at: <https://pragprog.com/titles/gwpy3/practical-programming-third-edition/> (<https://pragprog.com/titles/gwpy3/practical-programming-third-edition/>). The textbook is **optional**. It is also available in the bookstore and library.

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## Marking Scheme

The following items will contribute to your grade: two surveys, weekly exercises (prepare, perform), assignments, two term tests, and a final examination. All assessments must be completed alone (no partners or groups). The Marking Scheme is shown in the table below:

Assessment	Total Weight	More information
Surveys	1%	Two surveys (0.5% each).
Prepare Exercises	5%	Due Mondays starting on May 11. Each week is equally weighted. Best 10 of 11.*
Perform Exercises	10%	Due Fridays starting on May 15. Each week is equally weighted. For each week, the PCRS and MarkUs components are equally weighted. Best 10 of 11.*
Assignments	17%	Three assignments: A1 (3%), A2 (7%), A3 (7%)
Term Test 1	12%	Written in person on paper.
Term Test 2	15%	Written in person on paper.
Final Examination	40%	To be scheduled in the final exam period. To pass the course, students must earn at least 40% on the final exam.

\* We drop the lowest mark from your Prepare and Perform exercises in case you have to miss one due to illness or other personal circumstances. See the section on Special Consideration for more details.

## Exercises: Prepare, Rehearse, Perform

<b>Prepare (5%)</b>	<p>We will post lecture videos and problems on <a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/pcrs">PCRS</a> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/pcrs">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/pcrs</a>) that cover the course topics to prepare you for the upcoming week. After watching the videos and working through the problems, you must complete the Prepare exercise.</p> <p>Each Prepare is due Monday by 11:59 AM . Week 1 has no prepare exercise.</p>
<b>Rehearse (During lectures)</b>	<p>Next, you will practice applying the concepts covered in the Prepare videos by completing activities of various kinds and working through more complex examples during your lecture time with the support of your instructor and teaching assistants.</p> <p>These activities are not for course credit, but are designed to help you get the practice you need to successfully complete the Perform exercises. After class, instructors typically post code and other materials from <a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/g46d253a38ca6ba08065b66d045c0c006">Lectures</a> (<a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/g46d253a38ca6ba08065b66d045c0c006">https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/g46d253a38ca6ba08065b66d045c0c006</a>).</p>

<b>Perform (10%)</b>	<p>Finally, using <a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/pcrs">PCRS</a> and <a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/markus">MarkUs</a>, you'll complete a Perform exercise based on material covered in the Prepare and Rehearse phases.</p> <p>Each Perform exercise is due Friday by 4:00 pm. Week 1 has no Perform exercise.</p>
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## Term Tests

There will be two term tests. The term test will cover material from lectures, exercises, and assignments. More information about the content of each test and the room assignments will be provided closer to the date of the test.

Test	Date and Time	Locations
Term Test 1	TBD	Locations will be posted closer to the date. See <a href="https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/tests-and-final-exam">Tests and Exam</a> .
Term Test 2	Wednesday, July 29, 6 pm - 9 pm	EX 100

If you have another academic obligation during your test time, you may submit a form to request to write at another time. Please see [Special Consideration and Accommodations for Term Tests](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus).

## Final Exam

The final exam covers the whole course, and takes place in person during the final exam period. It is scheduled and administered by the Faculty of Arts and Science. More details on the final exam will come later in the term.

## Assignments

The due dates for assignments are:

- Assignment 1: Thursday May 28th before 4:00 pm
- Assignment 2: Thursday July 16th before 4:00 pm
- Assignment 3: Thursday August 6th before 4:00 pm

The assignments will be submitted electronically, using MarkUs. You will log in using your UTORid and password. To submit your work:

1. Navigate to the MarkUs page for the particular assignment
2. Click on the "Submissions" tab near the top.
3. Click "Add New File" and use the "Choose Files" button to choose a file.
4. Click "Submit". You can submit a new version of a file later (before the deadline, of course).

Once you have submitted, click on the file's name to check that you submitted the correct version!

## Assignments: Late Policy

There is a one-hour grace period after an assignment deadline, during which no penalty will be applied. Assignments submitted after this one-hour grace period are late and will be accepted only under the policy on special consideration and accommodations below.

## Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is taken very seriously. Students who do not do their own work are at risk of not passing the course, and of not being prepared to be successful in future courses.

The department uses software that compares programs for evidence of similar code. Please read the Rules and Regulations from the U of T Governing Council (especially the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters): <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>  
(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>)

Please also see the information for students from the Office of Student Academic Integrity: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity> (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>)

Please don't copy. We want you to succeed and are here to help. Here are a couple of general guidelines to help you avoid plagiarism:

- Never look at another student's exercise or assignment solution, whether it is on paper or on the computer screen. Never show another student your exercise or assignment solution, including by pasting parts of it into a group chat. This applies to all drafts of a solution and to incomplete solutions. If you find code on the web that solves part or all of an exercise or assignment, do not read, use, or submit any part of it! A large percentage of the academic offenses in CS involve

students who have never met, and who just happened to find the same solution online. If you find a solution, someone else will too.

- Do not seek solutions online, or help outside of the CSC108 course staff. For example, do not post or look at posting on sites like Chegg. These sites contribute to a large number of our academic offense cases each term.
- Online tutors (human or AI) are also often problematic, as they often cross the line and tell students what code to write - and then work with multiple students who all end up submitting nearly identical code.
- The easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to only discuss a piece of work with the CSC108 TAs or the CSC108 instructors.

Please also see the [AI Tools Usage Policy](#)

(<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/course-syllabus>) for CSC108.

## Special Consideration and Accommodations

### Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca> (<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>) as soon as possible.

Students who require accommodations for the term tests and/or the final exam must register with Accommodated Testing Services.

### Special Consideration and Accommodations for Assignments

We recognize that unexpected problems, illness, and disability-related barriers sometimes make it difficult to submit assignments on time. For this reason, we will grant extensions of up to one week for assignment submissions to anyone who requests one. This policy is intended to cover students who are registered with Accessibility services and require extra time to complete assignments as well as students who discover that they are unable to meet the original assignment deadline. You may make use of this policy on as many assignments as you require.

## [Assignment Extension Request Form](https://forms.office.com/r/9Cg0paSah5) (<https://forms.office.com/r/9Cg0paSah5>)

When an extension is requested under this policy:

- the extension begins from the original assignment due date and time
- the deadline is typically updated on MarkUs within about an hour
- the maximum extension allowed is one week. Any assignments submitted beyond the one week extension and the one-hour grace period (even 1 second beyond) will not be graded.

**Do not use this policy to simply shift the original deadline.** If you ask for an extension because you need more time and then during the extension period you become ill or face another challenge that impacts your ability to complete the assignment, you will not be granted any additional extensions beyond the 7 day maximum.

Extensions beyond 7 days will only be considered, if the reason for the request began before the original assignment deadline, persisted during the entire extension period, and continued beyond the extended deadline. In that case, you should contact the course email address.

Note that this policy only applies to assignments -- not to Prepare or Perform exercises which must be submitted on time. **No late submissions will be graded for Prepare or Perform exercises.**

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## Special Consideration and Accommodations for Term Tests

Students who require accommodations for the term tests and final exam must register with Accommodated Testing Services.

Students experiencing illness or other emergencies that prevent them from being able to write a Term Test, can apply for special consideration. You will be required to affirm that you are abiding by the

[Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#)

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>), in particular that it is an offence

*to engage in any form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not herein otherwise described, in order to obtain academic credit or other academic advantage of any kind.*

That is, that you are truly experiencing an emergency, and acknowledge that to falsely claim so is an academic offence. Applying does not guarantee that you will be granted special consideration.

**IMPORTANT:** *Submit your request as soon as possible if you find yourself in such a situation. It is easier to resolve situations earlier rather than later.* If your emergency will affect your ability to

complete coursework in multiple courses, we recommend you also talk to your registrar. You should also complete the absence declaration form on ACORN.

## Special Consideration and Accommodations for Other Homework

The policy on special consideration for assignment deadlines, should cover all illness, disability-related barriers, and other special considerations for Assignments. A student who has been ill **for the entire 7 days between the assignment deadline and the extension date**, may contact us through the course email address.

The reason that we allow students to count the best 10 of 11 (prepare exercises) and the best 10 of 11 (perform exercises) is so that they can miss an exercise due to illness or other unexpected circumstances. Students who are ill for **more than one prepare or perform exercise**, can email the course email ([csc108-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu](mailto:csc108-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu) (<mailto:csc108-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu>)) to request special consideration on the weighting of their completed work. Special consideration will not be granted for students who are only ill for a single prepare or perform exercise.

### [Course Policies for Technical Issues](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/g34016b9a69ffc444bbc360ed4e1e40d3)

<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433000/pages/g34016b9a69ffc444bbc360ed4e1e40d3>

## Policies

### AI Tools Usage in CSC108

Using Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT and GitHub CoPilot, to produce code is prohibited in CSC108\*\*. Here's why:

- The **most important goal** of CSC108 is for you to be able to **read and write code**.
- Use of these tools can give you a false sense of mastery of the course material. Grades are intended to give you some feedback on your understanding of the course material. These tools may help you earn higher grades than your actual level of understanding.
- Students who make use of generative AI to solve unsupervised coursework (e.g. Perform exercises, Assignments) are not developing the programming skills necessary to be successful on both supervised coursework (e.g. Term Test, Final Exam) and future courses (e.g. CSC148 and any other course that depends on mastery of the CSC108 material).
- It is an academic offense to submit work that is not your own, whether that is generated by another human, or by AI.

- Even if you are only using generative AI for studying and practice exercises that are not for marks, it can sometimes give incorrect answers or explanations, even on relatively simple programming questions.

\*\* You must not use these tools to generate code for for-credit coursework like exercises and assignments. You will be able to use an AI tool called LearnAid, which has been trained on the course material. Later in the course we will discuss the use of AI tools for programming and may update this AI tool usage policy.

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## Recordings Usage

We will aim to make a recording available each week of one section of the course. These recordings are intended for students who have to miss an occasional lecture for illness or personal reasons. We strongly discourage students from planning to use recordings as their primary engagement with the course as our data shows that students who only participate asynchronously, and who do not have prior programming experience, are more likely to fall behind, drop, and fail the course.

Disclaimer: This course, including your participation, may be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

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## Term Test Remark Requests

Mistakes sometimes happen when marking. If you feel there is an issue with the marking of your test, you may request that it be remarked. Remark requests are accepted up to two weeks after tests are returned, and will be completed before the final grades are submitted at the end of the term. You must give a specific reason for your request, referring to a possible error or omission by the marker. Remark requests without a specific reason will not be accepted.

To request a remark for a test, please see the announcement about the test result availability for details.

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## Technical Issues

- No extensions or special consideration will be granted to individual students on assignments and exercises (Prepare and Perform) for reasons of technical difficulties.
- To ensure that you are not affected by a technical difficulty on your end, we strongly recommend that you: (1) give yourself extra time in advance of the deadlines in case you have trouble submitting, and (2) regularly backup your assignment files, such as by submitting them to MarkUs (yes, you can submit incomplete assignments as you work on them!), by emailing the assignment file to yourself, or by using some other method of backup. Make sure whatever you choose is not public. Using a public backup method, like a Github repository, is equivalent to sharing your code with other students.
- In the unlikely event of a PCRS or MarkUs outage affecting your ability to submit your exercises or assignments, the CSC108 instructors will post an announcement with instructions on how to proceed.

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## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We, the students and teaching staff of CSC108, are all members of the same teaching and learning community, with a common goal of creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Each of us has a responsibility towards this goal. We expect that each member of the community treats others with compassion and respect.

The following is UofT's general syllabus statement on equity:

*The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.*

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## Copyright notice

Course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. These materials are made available to you for your personal use, and cannot be shared outside of the class or published (made publicly available) in any way. Posting course materials or any recordings you may make to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

This notice applies to all course materials, including (but not limited to): course notes, lecture materials, lecture recordings, sample tests, and assignment handouts, starter code, and solutions.

## Lecture recordings

You may not make your own recordings of video, audio, or text chat from lectures, whether in person or online. Course staff may upload lecture recordings on the course website for your use (but you may not distribute these).

## Your course work

Work that you complete for CSC108 (including exercises, assignments, and tests) may not be shared with other students or published. This policy is to both protect the intellectual property of course staff (including, for example, the design and starter files for assignments), and to protect you from committing acts of academic dishonesty. For more information on this topic, see [the Department of Computer Science website \(https://web.cs.toronto.edu/undergraduate/portfolio-advice\)](https://web.cs.toronto.edu/undergraduate/portfolio-advice).

[GitHub \(https://www.github.com/\)](https://www.github.com/) is a popular option for computer science students and professionals to both collaborate in teams and publish their work online, including to develop a portfolio for potential employers. You should not put your work publicly on GitHub. However, you may use GitHub's **private repositories** to store your own work. (See [GitHub's instructions for creating a repository \(https://docs.github.com/en/github/getting-started-with-github/create-a-repo\)](https://docs.github.com/en/github/getting-started-with-github/create-a-repo) and select "Private" in Step 4.)