CSC 236 Guide to Check Ins

Summer 2023

Basic Facts

1.) There will be a TA check in for each of the five homeworks.

2.) Each check in is worth 2% of your grade (for a total of 10%).

3.) Check ins should be done in pairs. Pairs may change throughout the semester.

4.) Check ins are 15 mins long and NOT on U of T time. That is, they start on time.

5.) You may sign up to check in with any available TA.

6.) Though check ins are worth some points, they are mainly an opportunity for YOU to interact with the TAs and ask them questions.

Signing up

1.) We will be using Calendly. Each TA will have their own link, which you can find on the website.

2.) **Important:** In the description box, put the UTorID of both you and your partner. Note that UTorIDs are not the same as your Student ID Number. If you don't know your UTorID, you can ask us on Ed.

Format

1.) First 5 minutes: Your TA will select several problems from the homework and ask you to talk through your attempt at them.

2.) Remaining 10 minutes: If your TA identifies a misunderstanding in the first 5 minutes, they will bring it up. Otherwise, this is your chance to ask the TA any questions about the course (including about previous homeworks).

Grading for Check Ins

1.) TLDR: You will get full credit for convincing your TA that you made a fair attempt on all the HW problems.

2.) There are three possible grades for each check in: $+, -, 0$, corresponding to 2%, 1%, 0%. Here is what each grade corresponds to

· $+$: You made a fair attempt at all the homework problems.

· $-$: You showed up but did not demonstrate that you made a reasonable attempt at the homework problems.

· 0: You didn't show up.

3.) Demonstrating "A fair attempt".

· Any (correct or incorrect) solution.

· An incomplete solution with specific ideas attempted and an explanation of where you got stuck or why the idea doesn't work.

Examples:

· "I tried to solve the problem using induction on n but could not finish the proof." This is insufficient for full credit since you did not demonstrate WHAT you tried.

· "I tried to solve the problem using induction on n but could not finish the proof. In particular, I couldn't get the algebra to work out in the inductive step. Here is where I got to [shows scratch work], and I'm unsure how to proceed from here... This IS sufficient for full credit since you demonstrated that you tried the homework problem. In this scenario, your TA will suggest ideas and help you get unstuck in the second half of the check in.