

LEC 00

CSE 121

Welcome!



Questions during Class?

Raise hand or send here

sli.do #cse121



BEFORE WE START

*Talk to your neighbors:
Introduce yourself!*

*What is your name? Major?
What did you do over spring break?*

Music:  [CSE 121 26sp Lecture Tunes](#) 

Instructor: Matt Wang

TAs:

Abdul	Amogh	Anant	Anum	Cayden
Dalton	Ethan	Hayden	Jesse	Jessica
Johnathan	Minh	Navya	Paul	Reese
Ruslana	Sam	Savannah	Spencer	Shayna
Tamsyn	TJ	Trey		

Lecture Outline

Today:

1. Introductions :)
2. About this course
3. Our learning model
4. Culture and community
5. Tools
6. Our first program!

On Friday:

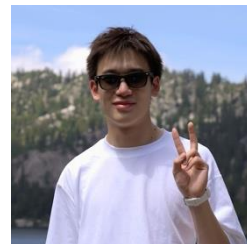
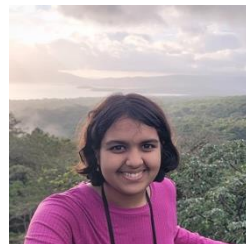
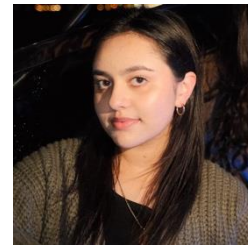
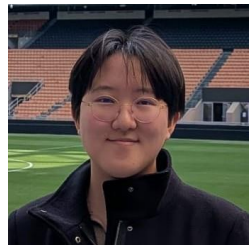
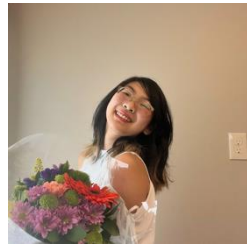
1. More programming!
2. Assessment and grading
3. Collaboration

Hi, I'm Matt! (he/him)

- Assistant Teaching Professor
- Frequent CSE 121 instructor (and other classes)
- Previously:
 - at UCLA, studied computer science, math, and economics
 - grew up in Toronto, Canada (and a bit of Tokyo, Japan)
- CS interests: computing education, accessibility, programming languages, “open source”
- non-CS interests: reading, music, video games, & winter sports!



Meet your 23 fabulous TAs!



Agenda: About This Course

Today:

1. Introductions :)
2. **About this course**
 - Learning objectives
 - Similar courses
 - Course components
3. Our learning model
4. Culture and community
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Learning Objectives

or, “What will I learn in this class?”

Bottom line:

Intro to Programming, part 1

Not quite:

- “How do computers work?”
- “Intro to the Java language”
- “All you need to program”
- Math!

Learning Objectives:

1. Computational Thinking
2. Code Comprehension
3. Code Writing
4. Communication
5. Testing
6. Debugging
7. Ethics & Societal Impact

Other Similar Courses

Course	Good choice if...
CSE 121 (this is us!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You've never programmed before AND You are, or want to be in a major such as CS, CE, ECE, Info, etc. that requires Java programming
CSE 122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You've done <i>some</i> programming (roughly one course worth) in any programming language AND You are, or want to be in a major such as CS, CE, ECE, Info, etc. that requires Java programming
CSE 123	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You've taken CSE 122 (or equivalent) AND You are, or want to be in a major such as CS, CE, ECE, Info, etc. that requires Java programming
CSE 143	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You took CSE 142 (at UW, through UWHS, or at community college) OR You took AP CS A (or similar) and feel confident in <i>all</i> the material
CSE 143X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have programmed quite a bit before, but <i>not</i> in Java OR You have lots of extra time to put into learning and tend to pick things up quickly
CSE 160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You've never programmed before AND You're interested in data science and analysis OR You'd rather learn Python than Java* OR You are, or want to be in a major such as Physics, Bio, Stat, etc. where your primary goal is analyzing data through programming (rather than building software)

Also see: [guided self-placement](#) and [CSE page on introductory courses](#) for more info.

Course Components

LECTURES

x20

- We're here!
- Introduce concepts, practice ideas, discuss applications.
- Pre-class materials to prepare for class each day. Due **before** class.

SECTIONS

x16

- Held in person
- More practice, reviews, applications
- TA advice, how to be an effective student
- Preparation for quizzes / exams
- Pre-section work due at the beginning of section each day

Meetings

PROGRAMMING ASSIGNMENTS

x4

- Structured assignments
- Programming in Java
- Applying & implementing course concepts

QUIZZES

x3

- Taken in quiz section
- 45 minutes on paper

CREATIVE PROJECTS

x4

- More open-ended assignments
- Explore new ideas and applications

EXAM

x1

- Culminating exam
- **Wed, June 10th**
- 2:30 – 4:20 PM

Graded Assignments

Agenda: Our Learning Model

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How Learning Works

Learning requires **active participation** in the process.

It's not as simple as sitting and listening to someone talk at you!

- Requires **deliberate practice** in **learning by doing**
- Involves **productive struggle**
- Benefits from **collaborative learning**
- Does not work well if you cram everything!



Pre-Class Materials

PRE-CLASS MATERIALS

PCMs are a core element of the course

- Prepare for each lecture with **readings & practice problems**
- Should take **~30 minutes per lecture** (why we don't have Monday lectures!)
- Class will start with a brief recap, then pick off where we left off

This means...

- We can spend lecture diving deeper, answering questions, and think-pair-share
- You can ask about pre-lecture material in class or section!

Pre-class materials are **ungraded**, which means...

- It's okay if you find them challenging – that means you're learning!
- But you should do them, and we will assume you've done them

You will also have **pre-section work** that fulfills a similar purpose

Consistent and Active Participation

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not graded, but it's strongly encouraged!

- Lectures and sections are not going to be just us talking at you!
- Instead: live in-class coding, debugging, think-pair-share, and problem—solving
- Spending ~1-2 hours each day over Tuesday - Friday is **much more effective** than cramming right before the assignment is due!

Catching up:

- All lectures are recorded on Panopto; slides are on our website.
- Section materials are on Ed, but section will not be recorded

Metacognition

Metacognition: asking questions about your solution process.

Examples:

- **While debugging** (~troubleshooting): reflect on *why* you're trying this change.
- **Before running your program:** make an explicit prediction of what you expect.
- **When working:** be aware when you're not making progress, so you can take a break or try a different strategy.
- **When designing:**
 - What are the hard parts of the problem going to be?
 - If one or more requirements change, how would the solution change as a result?
 - Reflect on how you ruled out alternative ideas along the way to a solution.
- **When studying:** what is the relationship of this topic to other ideas in the course?

We'll ask you to practice metacognition regularly throughout the course

Learning in CSE 121: Live Support Systems

Programming is hard! We **want** to give you collaborative support!

Introductory Programming Lab (TA Office Hours) – starting Week 2

- > 40 hours/week (and highly rated in the class!)
- Face-to-face help from TAs on **any** course questions

Instructor Office Hours – starting this week!

- I have food, love to yap, and promise I'm not scary!
- Great for things from lecture, personal questions, or just saying hi

Learning in CSE 121: Async Support Systems

Ed Board

- Best for content and logistics questions – 170 of you >> 24 of us!!
- Encourage public posts, except for things about **your** graded work
- Answer other students' questions – great way to learn!

Email

- Best for personal circumstances and/or private questions
- If unsure, always feel free to email Matt (mxw@cs.washington.edu)
- May politely ask you to post on Ed instead!
- For emails, **please use your UW email** (protecting student privacy!)

Agenda: Culture and Community

Today:

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2. About this course
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Practice: Think



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#cse121

Think-Pair-Share: Inclusive Environments

CSE 121 will have many think-pair-share activities. Let's practice! Today's think:

What was an experience you had that made you feel welcome or included in a learning environment?

1. **Think** on your own, in silence for about ~ 30 seconds
2. **Pair** with your neighbor about it (and introduce yourself!!)
3. **Share** in sli.do & in class (I'll take a few volunteers from both)



Practice: Think



sli.do

#cse121

Think-Pair-Share: *Exclusive* Environments

CSE 121 will have many think-pair-share activities. Let's practice! Today's think:

What was an experience you had that made you feel unwelcome or excluded in a learning environment?

1. **Think** on your own, in silence for about ~ 30 seconds
2. **Pair** with your neighbor about it (and introduce yourself!!)
3. **Share** in sli.do & in class (I'll take a few volunteers from both)

The CSE 121 Community

ABOUT US

- Currently ~170 students enrolled!
 - *Very few* are CSE majors
 - Wide range of backgrounds, interests, and goals
 - ***Everyone*** is new to programming

OUR GOALS

- Foster an **inclusive** and **supportive** environment for all students to thrive by:
 - being respectful
 - being kind and understanding
 - being honest
 - being ourselves

The World Around Us

College is challenging and CSE 121 isn't your only class.

Life is unpredictable and things happen.

We can't leave the impacts of the world around us at the classroom door.

OUR POLICIES

Our course policies are **designed for flexibility**:

- Resubmissions
- Dropping quiz/exam problems
- Asynchronous help
- Lecture recordings

SUPPORT

We're here to **support you as a student and as a person**.

Please **reach out** if you're struggling or have circumstances that require extra support.

Help Us Improve!

This is still a relatively new course! We're *always* looking for feedback on how to improve the class for you and for future students.

- We ***really*** value your feedback!
- Let us know what's working and what isn't working for you!

Several feedback mechanisms:

- Built into the class (e.g. reflections, mid-quarter feedback sessions)
- Post on discussion board (can be public/private)
 - Note: anonymous is anonymous to other students, *not* to staff
- Use [CSE's Anonymous Feedback Tool](#) (also on website)

Agenda: Tools

Today:

1. Introductions :)
2. About this course
3. Our learning model
4. Culture and community
5. **Tools**
 - Course website
 - Ed
 - Other Key Course Tools
6. Our first program!

On Friday:

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Course Website

cs.uw.edu/121

- Primary source of course information (**not Canvas**)
- Calendar will contain links to (almost) all resources
- Please **review syllabus ASAP**
- Let's go on a website tour :)

The screenshot shows the CSE 121 course website. The navigation menu on the left includes: Home / Calendar, Syllabus, Assignments, Resubmissions, Exam, Getting Help, Course Staff, Grading Rubrics, Resources, Search Site, Course Tools, EdStem, Grade Calculator, Anonymous Feedback, and Acknowledgements. The main content area displays the course title 'Introduction to Computer Programming I' for Spring 2026, a welcome message, a button for 'What is this class? What will I learn?', and a 'This Week (at a glance)' section with a daily schedule:

- Monday (03/30)**
 - Nothing!
- Tuesday (03/31)**
 - Nothing!
- Wednesday (04/01)**
 - [Lesson 0: Course Policies, Hello World!](#)
 - *A lecture @ 11:30 in GUG 220*
 - No Pre-Class Work for today!
- Thursday (04/02)**
 - [Section 0: Welcome](#)
- Friday (04/03)**
 - [Lesson 1: Printing, Strings, Variables](#)
 - *A lecture @ 11:30 in GUG 220*

Ed

- Our online learning platform
- Lessons, sections, announcements
- Place to ask questions
- Also, **where we'll code!**
- Intro and walkthrough in **Section 0**

The screenshot displays the Ed discussion board interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the 'ed' logo, 'UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON', and the course title 'CSE 121 - 2...' followed by 'Ed Discuss...'. A search bar is visible on the left side. The main content area shows a thread titled 'Welcome to CSE 121!' with a pink flower icon and '#1'. The author is 'Matt Wang', identified as an 'INSTRUCTOR / LEAD TA', with a profile picture. The post content reads: 'Hi all! Welcome to CSE 121 🎉! My name is Matt Wang, and I'll be your instructor for CSE 121 in Spring 2026. The entire course staff is really excited to be working with you in CSE 121! With the quarter officially starting today, we wanted to get some important information out so you can prepare. We hope you all managed to stay safe and healthy and had an enjoyable spring break. You're receiving this email on our Ed Discussion board, which will be one of the main places for you to connect with your classmates and the course staff. If you're new to Ed or want a refresher, check out [EdStem's Quick Start Guide](#) to help you navigate the website. The rest of this post is a combination of different logistics items. **Please read this carefully before our first class on Wednesday (two days from now)!**

Below the main text, there is a section titled 'Resources' with a book icon. It states: 'Our [course website](#) has all the information and resources you'll need and is now available at <https://cs.uw.edu/121>. Please bookmark or remember this site, as you'll want to access it frequently. Please note the course website is still under development and is subject to change!

Other Key Course Tools



sli.do

- Ask questions in class
- Live activities (ungraded)
- No account needed



Canvas

- Panopto lecture recordings (also linked from website)



Gradescope

- Quiz and final exam grading
- Pre-section work

more course tools introduced soon™

Switching to Ed: Our First Program!*

*note: in almost all cases, slides are *not* comprehensive. reviewing the slides will not cover all the content in lecture!

“Homework” for Next Time

First assignment will be released Friday, but there are some things to do in the meantime.

TODOs this week:

- Fill out the [introductory survey](#) (this is part of your pre-section work for tomorrow's section)
- Go meet your TA and classmates in Thursday's quiz section
- Complete the pre-class material for Friday (see website/calendar)
- Check over [syllabus details on website](#)