

CSE 390Z: Mathematics for Computation — Autumn '26

Workshop Times:

- ZA Tuesday, 11:30 AM - 1:20 PM – MGH 082A
- ZB Tuesday, 2:30 PM - 4:20 PM – MGH 058

Staff:

Staff Mailing List: cse390z-staff@cs.washington.edu

- Instructor: Hannah Potter (hkpotter@cs.washington.edu)
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Course Goals:

CSE 390Z is a workshop designed to provide academic support to students enrolled concurrently with CSE 311. During each 2-hour workshop for CSE 390Z, students will reinforce concepts through collaborative problem solving, practice study skills and effective learning habits, and build a community for peer support. CSE 390Z **is not** a part of CSE 311 and is a fully separate course. Any student enrolled in CSE 311 is welcome to register for this course.

Course Content & Grading

This is a 1 credit course, so you should expect about 2 hours of in-class time each week, and approximately 1 hour of work outside of class.

There are 4 categories of work in this course. Work in each category will be graded **Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory** (S/N). This course is **Credit/No-Credit** and is not graded on a curve. To earn credit for this course you must:

1. **Workshop Participation:** Get an **S** on 7 / 9 (Week 1 participation will not be graded)
2. **Quick Checks:** Get an **S** on 7 / 9
3. **Skill Assessments:** Get an **S** on 3 / 4
4. **Exam Preparation:** Get an **S** on 2 / 3

Workshop Participation

There are 10 workshops in the quarter, and 9 where participation is recorded (participation is not recorded in week 1). To earn an **S** for Workshop Participation for a week, you must attend your workshop, fully engaging with other students in groups and in course activities.

Should you not be able to attend class due to an extenuating circumstance, reach out to the course staff via email or private post on Ed. We will be more than willing to work with you on accommodations as needed.

Quick Checks

Quick Checks are short, weekly assignments that allow you to test your 311 knowledge. These should take approximately 45 minutes to complete outside of class, submitted on Gradescope. They are graded S/N on effort, not correctness. There will be 9 Quick Checks throughout the quarter, consisting of two parts:

1. Quick Check Problem: Solve the given problems to the best of your ability.
2. Quick Check Video Solution: Watch a video solution and reflect on your work.

Skill Assessments

Skill Assessments are assignments to build skills that will help you in 311. There will be 4 Skill Assessments throughout the quarter: LaTeX About Me, 311 Homework Reflections 1, Imposter Syndrome Reflection, 311 Homework Reflections 2. They should be submitted on Gradescope.

Exam Preparation

Our final workshop of the quarter will be a simulated final exam to help prepare you for the 311 final exam. It will be graded on effort, not correctness. If you are unable to participate in person, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements.

Late Policy

There are two types of homework in this course: quick checks and skill assessments. All homework will be due on **Mondays at 11:59 pm**. Instead of a late policy (that lets you submit assignments a few days late), we use a resubmission policy (that lets you return to assignments as needed later in the quarter).

If you are experiencing a hardship that would make the work for the course excessive or make

meeting deadlines regularly impossible for a period (e.g., a family emergency or extended illness), please reach out to the course staff; we can offer accommodations (sometimes moved deadlines, but more often the ability to resubmit more assignments at the end of the quarter or “dropping” assignments).

Resubmission Policy

You may (re)-submit 3 homework assignments (any combination of quick checks and skill assessments) toward the end of the quarter as a second-chance at getting credit for them. We will have a deadline for one of these resubmissions during each of the last three weeks of the quarter. Resubmission can be either because you got an NS grade on the initial assignment, or because you missed the initial deadline for the assignment (that is, it can be your first submission, even though we call it a “resubmission”). These resubmissions are graded according to the original rubrics; if you get an S score, that fully replaces the original score.

Course Resources

- **Course Website:** The central source of info about what's going on in the class, including where assignments are posted.
- **Gradescope:** Where all assignments should be submitted.
- **EdStem:** The discussion board for the course. Feel free to ask any questions you might have on 390z content or logistics, or reach out to the staff mailing list cse390z-staff@cs.washington.edu for more personal or logistical questions. We will also use EdStem for all course announcements.
- **Canvas:** We will not be consistently updating canvas. Information on canvas may be partial or inaccurate for large portions of the quarter, and you should not rely on it for this course. We may use Canvas's gradebook at the end of the quarter.
- **Office Hours:** All course staff have office hours, posted on the course website, beginning Tuesday, October 6th. Note that ***we cannot answer 311 homework questions during office hours*** out of fairness to all students in 311. We *can* work on workshop problems, review section problems or lecture problems, and provide explanations on a variety of concepts.

We will also have certain office hours that begin with a **~20 minute review** of a particular concept. These office hours will be announced on the course website and EdStem.

Academic Conduct

Outside of workshop problems, it is expected that you will complete your CSE 390Z assignments **individually** unless otherwise specified. We encourage you to discuss your ideas with other students, but your writing and work must be your own. Additionally, we recommend that you review the Allen School Academic Misconduct Policy as you work with other students this quarter.

The use of AI (e.g., chat-gpt and other LLMs) may be used to help with general questions and ungraded work, but is not allowed when working on 390Z assignments. **Please note that while assignments in this class are graded on completion, they are graded and thus AI use is not allowed while working on them.** The goal of this course is to help you practice the 311 material, not to have an LLM practice the 311 material! Remember we grade your submissions on effort, not on correctness. It is much better for you to submit something and get feedback on what you should change (so that you can do better on similar 311 problems, where grading is based on correctness) than it is to get a pristine submission from an LLM that can't teach you anything. If you are tempted to use an LLM to save time, we encourage you to reach out to the course staff to discuss your situation (you might be in a spot where accommodations make sense, or we might be able to give you advice on how to approach 311/390z so that they are more manageable). See the [Allen School "AI as a Reference Tool" AI use policy](#) for more detailed information.

Accommodations

We want this course to be approachable, accessible, and flexible for all students. Please let the course instructor know if you require accommodations for disability, mental health, religious activity, or matters of conscience. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to the course instructor at your earliest convenience so we can discuss how best to accommodate your needs in this course. If any incident occurs that challenges our commitment to a supportive and inclusive environment, please let the instructor know so the issue can be addressed.

Additionally, a list of University of Washington mental health resources is accessible at all times from the course website.

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