

# FIRST YEAR FAQ

## CSCI 1227

Computer Programming  
and Problem Solving

Professor: Dr. Yasushi Akiyama

Refer to the Course Outline provided on Brightspace for more information.

### Tips for Success

Pay close attention to the CSCI 1227 course site on Brightspace—and check it often! You'll hear more about it on the first day of classes, but keep in mind that **very important notices about labs and assignments will be posted there.**

Start your assignments early, and make sure you submit them often, even if you haven't finished them yet. Professors will only grade the latest version of each file you submit, so you don't need to worry about us grading the wrong file. By passing files in early you will always have something submitted for a grade.

**We do not accept late assignments.** Some exceptions may be made for late assignments if the student notifies the professor in a timely manner and can provide a reasonable justification.

Remember that **we are here to help you:**

- Ask questions in lectures and labs.
- Visit us during our office hours and/or online office hours.

**But most importantly: write lots of programs!**  
**The only way to become a good driver is to drive;**  
**the only way to become a good programmer is to program.**

### Is there a Required Textbook?

No textbook is required, the course notebooks are sufficient, however the following materials may be helpful as a reference:

[Think Python](#), 2nd edition by Allen B. Downey (free)

[Python Tutorial](#) (free)

*Introduction to Python for Engineers and Scientists: Open Source Solutions for Numerical Computation* by Nagar, S. (2017). United States: Apress. (Not free, but not too expensive)

### Do You Need Your Own Laptop?

Bringing a laptop is not required, and you won't need one during class. However, if you'd like to follow along and try out code as I demonstrate short examples, having a laptop can be helpful.

### Software

To practice programming and complete your assignments, you will need a computer with Python Interpreter installed or a device with an internet connection. In class, I'll be using a web-based programming environment that works smoothly even on a tablet with a keyboard, so you're welcome to use whatever device you're comfortable with. I will discuss other options at the beginning of the semester.

