

CompSci101 Survival

Guide

tips from a survivor

1. Never go on UTA office hours the night an assignment is due.

There are many students out there who save those huge assignments for the day they are due. You will need to go to office hours for each assignment at least once. Don't let it be when those kids who are cramming go on... you will be sitting on the waiting line for hours.

3. Do assignments as early as possible.

These are tough. And they will only get tougher. Assignments will take hours and hours, possibly days and days to complete. Start early, and work little by little so that you can manage your time better, get the help you need when you need it, and understand the code you are writing more clearly.

5. When solving an APT, pay attention to how you would solve the problem as you read it for the first time.

Which numbers do your eyes follow? What patterns are you instinctively looking for? Are you mentally keeping a list or count of certain things? These will often tell you how you should be writing your code. Just put it into the python language instead of your mind's language!

7. Plug things into the Python console.

There are many types of elements, functions, operators, and values you will work with. Don't let the unknown get the best of you! If you are confused or curious as to how certain things work together within Python, check to see how these work in tandem with each other by plugging things into the python console. You will better understand the language.

8. Most importantly, DON'T FALL BEHIND! Stay ahead, and you will have fun in this class!

2. Make Python Tutor your BFF!

Never will a pointer arrow be more useful than now. Python Tutor helps you to visualize your code and see how each line is being executed. I suggest writing your code directly in it and run the code bit by bit to ensure everything is functioning correctly. Think of it as behind-the-scenes access to code... that you have a free pass to!

4. Use print statements to trace your bug!

If you are stuck in an assignment and unsure of how to connect the dots, (any python tutor isn't an option), add print statements to see what is being executed and how it is being executed. This will make clear what your code is doing and will help you to debug your code.

6. Practice is the best preparation for exams.

The best way to study for a CS101 exam is to practice, practice, practice! Take as many old tests as possible, retake sakai quizzes, do extra APT problems, and redo WOTOs. Don't be afraid to ask questions in piazza when you have them.

