

CSC 241 Introduction to Computer Science I

Course Syllabus Autumn 2025 Section 408

Class Sessions: Tuesday/Thursdays 3:10 pm - 4:40 pm

Class Location: CDM, Room 315

Instructor: Jennifer Roscoe

Instructor Office Hours: Wednesday 2:15-3:00pm(virtual), Thursday 4:40 pm - 5:25 pm

Lab Sessions: Wednesday 11:50PM - 1:20PM (Mandatory In person)

Lab Location: CDM 801

Lab instructor: Purushottam Panchal

Instructor Contact Information

jroscoe2@depaul.edu

Email is the best way to reach me and I will respond within 48 hours.

Instructor Office Hours

Wednesday 2:15 pm - 3:00 pm [Via Zoom Link](#) Password: 996337

*Link will be available on our course site if DePaul is in Session that day

Thursday 4:40 pm - 5:25 pm In Person After Class, Location Room 315

*If another class is present, we will relocate to an available room as needed

TA Tutoring

Reach out to TA Purushottam Panchal to inquire about availability for tutoring

Please make use of my office hours and the lab instructor tutoring. Asking questions about the assessments, course notes and examples, or the readings can improve your understanding enormously. It will also let me know if I need to review a topic with the class. If you want to talk to me during my office hours but are unable to do so for any reason, please contact me and I will do my best to make an appointment outside of those hours.

Course Description

This course is the first of a two-course sequence introducing computer science. The focus of the course is on problem solving, algorithm development, logic structures, introductory data structures and functions using Python and the Python API (application programming interface), all in the context of building computer applications.

In this course we will focus on structured programming and learn how and when to use conditionals, loops, and functional and modular abstractions.

After you have taken this class:

- You will understand that a main focus of computer science is developing applications for computer systems.
- You will understand the concepts of abstraction and managing complexity.
- You will have stronger problem solving skills.

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- You will know how to develop algorithmic solutions for basic computational problems.
- You will understand fundamental programming structures such as expressions, assignments, decision and iteration structures, functions and modules.
- You will have basic Python programming skills.
- You will be prepared for the second course in the sequence, CSC 242: Introduction to Computer Science II

Prerequisites

Ordinarily the prerequisite for this class is MAT 130: Precalculus or an equivalent high-school or college course covering algebra and precalculus.

Tips for Success in the Course

In order to do well in this class, you must participate in the class sessions regularly, complete all of the labs on time, complete class activities, read the chapters in the book as indicated in the homework assignment, start work on the assignments early, submit the assignments on time, and ask questions early and often. The answers to the programming assignments, the lab exercises, and the exam questions should be written in a way that is rigorous, clear, and concise.

Course Materials

This course uses several platforms to enable our interactions:

- All information for this course is posted to the Desire 2 Learn (D2L) site. To log onto the D2L page visit <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>.
 - Course notes, programming assignments, lab assignments, exam study guides, the midterm and final exam, and other course materials will be available through the D2L site.
 - There will also be links to course recordings which are useful for review.
- Additional informational videos will be recorded using Panopto, which is connected to D2L. The recordings will be posted to the Content tab on D2L.

Textbook

The textbook for the course is **Introduction to Computing using Python: An Application Development Focus, Second Edition**, Ljubomir Perković, John Wiley & Sons, 2015. The electronic text has ISBN 978-1-118-89105-6.

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-EHEP003201.html#student>

Other Resources

1. W3 Schools Python Tutorial [<https://www.w3schools.com/python/>]
2. Python Tutorial (How to Think Like a Computer Scientist: Interactive Edition) (<https://runestone.academy/ns/books/published/CS241-409/index.html>)
3. Coding Bat - Python (<https://codingbat.com/python>)
4. [Python Tutor](#): Visualize Your Code

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5. [Google CoLab](#)

Course Calendar

The following gives all the important dates for this course. The topics covered are subject to change.

We	Date	Topic/Deadline	Cha	Programming Assignments And Lab Dates
1	Thursday September 11, 2025	Introduction to the course and Python Evaluating expressions, assignment statements, formatted output, Types, strings	1	No Lab On Weds PA1 Assigned Thursday
2	Tuesday September 16, 2025 Thursday September 18, 2025	Input structures, Boolean expressions, operator precedence, module division, If Statements, lists if/else statements, elif statements, lists	1	Lab 1 Due Weds 1:25pm PA1 Due Wednesday 11:59pm PA2 Assigned Thursday
3	Tuesday September 23, 2025 Thursday September 25, 2025	More decision structures, lists Midterm 1 Exam during class September 25, 2025 Iteration structure (For loops), range()	2 & 3	Lab 2 Due Weds 1:25pm PA2 Due Wednesday 11:59pm PA3 Assigned Thursday
4	Tuesday September 30, 2025 Thursday October 2, 2025	If statements: Empty Strings & Nested, Not operator, For loops- summing and counting logic, more built in functions Built in Functions, Creating and calling functions, logic	3 & 4	Lab 3 Due Weds 1:25pm PA3 Due Wednesday 11:59pm PA4 Assigned Thursday
5	Tuesday October 7, 2025	Functions that return a value	4	Lab 4 Due Weds 1:25pm

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	Thursday October 9, 2025	More String built in functions, File processing, Problem Solving/Algorithms		PA4 Due Wednesday 11:59pm PA5 Assigned Thursday
6	Tuesday October 14, 2025	File processing(writing and appending to)	4, 4.4	Lab 5 Due Weds 1:25pm PA5 Due Wednesday 11:59pm
	Thursday October 16, 2025	While Loops, 2DLists		PA6 Assigned Thursday
7	Tuesday October 21, 2025	Nested for loops (loop patterns, iteration and indexed loops)		Lab 6 Due Weds 1:25pm PA6 Due Wednesday 11:59pm
	Thursday October 23, 2025	Midterm 2 Exam during class Thursday October 23 2025 Exceptions		PA7 Assigned Thursday
8	Tuesday October 28, 2025	Dictionary, Nested For Loops, Exceptions, Sets Tuples	4 & 5	Lab 7 Due Weds 1:25pm PA7 Due Wednesday 11:59pm
	Thursday October 30, 2025	Loop patterns (indexed loops and accumulator loops), multidimensional lists		PA8 Assigned Thursday
9	Tuesday November 4, 2025	Loop Patterns(while loop, infinite loop, iterative loops)	4 & 5	Lab 8 Due Weds 1:25pm PA8 Due Wednesday 11:59pm
	Thursday November 6, 2025			PA8 Assigned Thursday
10	Tuesday November 11, 2025	Other collection types (tuples and sets), the random module	6	Lab 9 Due Weds 1:25pm PA9 Due Wednesday 11:59pm
	Thursday November 13, 2025	Dictionaries, Other collection types (tuples and sets), the random module		

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11	Tuesday November 18, 2025	Review Final: Dictionaries, Other collection types (tuples and sets), the random module	6 & 7	
	November 25, 2025	Final exam: 2:30-445pm		

Grading policy

Course assessments include lab exercises, programming assignments, two midterms and a final exam. The course grade will be computed as follows:

Assessment	Percentage
Lab exercises	10 %
Programming assignments	20 %
Midterm 1 Exam	20 %
Midterm 2 Exam	24 %
Final Exam	26 %

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

Late Work Policy: Programming Assignments, Lab Exercises, Midterms and Exams

Each programming assignment and lab exercise will have a ***posted deadline***, specified on the assignment. Assignments submitted by the deadline will be graded for full credit.

Programming Assignments

Programming assignments submitted no later than 12 hours after the deadline automatically will lose 15% of the points. No assignments are accepted more than 12 hours after the deadline for any reason, including submission of the wrong file.

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Lab Exercises

Lab Exercises are not accepted after the 1:25pm deadline and must be completed in person during the Lab session. The TA will take attendance each session.

Exams

No late midterms or exam submissions will be accepted for any reason. Make-up exams will not be given. If you wish to petition for a make-up exam, you must **notify via email in advance and provide documented evidence of the emergency** that will cause you to miss the exam. Failure to contact me in advance of the exam date and time will disqualify you from being allowed to take a make-up exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it will be of a form of my choosing.

Programming Assignments

Each week you will have a programming assignment. You can consult with your teaching assistant, the instructor, and the CDM tutors on the programming assignments, but you may not under any circumstances submit code that you have not helped to write or work written using the assistance of an AI tool. At any point in the quarter the instructor can make **submitting a screen recording of the student live coding** the programming assignment mandatory to prevent the use of AI.

Your lowest programming assignment score will be dropped in the calculation of your course grade.

Lab Exercises

Unless otherwise noted on our schedule, you will have lab exercises during the **mandatory in person** lab every Wednesday at 11:50 pm. The exercises are due at 1:25 pm each Wednesday. You are highly encouraged to attend the scheduled lab session.

The lowest two lab scores will be dropped in the calculation of your course grade.

Lab Grading Rubric

Each lab session is worth 5 points. To receive full points for the lab exercises, you must submit a file containing a solution to all exercises on the lab assignment by the deadline specified in the exercise set. A general rubric for each area is given below:

Exercise completion	Points earned
Submits a file by the deadline containing a solution for all of the lab exercises	5
Submits a file by the deadline containing a solution to a majority of the lab exercises	4

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Submits a file by the deadline containing at least a partial solution to a majority of the lab exercises	3
Submits a file by the deadline containing at least a partial solution to some of the lab exercises	2
Does not submit any solutions to the lab exercises	0

Midterm Exams

Each Midterm will be allotted 1 hour during regularly scheduled class, the remaining 30 minutes will be used to lecture. The midterms will be cumulative. Midterm 1 will take place during class on September 25 during class. Midterm 2 will take place during class on October 23. The Final will be November 20. The exams will take place in a computer lab. All exams will require you to write Python code. The details about how the exams will be given will be shared later in the quarter on the midterm and final exam study guides which will be posted to D2L.

Academic Integrity Pledge

All students will be required to sign and submit an Academic Integrity pledge at the start of the quarter. The Academic Integrity pledge will be posted on the D2L site. The pledge must be signed and submitted **as a part of the first programming assignment**.

Students who violate this agreement are violating the Academic Integrity policy of DePaul University. <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

Academic Integrity Policy

The course adheres to the DePaul University's Academic Integrity Policy. For complete information about Academic Integrity at DePaul University, please see:

<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

Violation of academic Integrity includes, but is not limited to: copying from another student, presentation of the work of another as one's own and **work written using the assistance of an AI tool**. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

A charge of cheating and/or plagiarism is always a serious matter. It can result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion.

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation

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is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation.

Additional DePaul Policies and Assistance Programs

Mental health and Academic Assistance

Balancing the hard work of achieving your educational goals with the other demands of life is difficult at the best of times. For many of us, for a variety of reasons, things are more difficult now. I want to make sure you feel comfortable reaching out to me for support. The university also has great resources just a phone call or email away. These have been created and maintained for you, so use them:

- DePaul University Counseling Services: Mental health is as important as physical health, and there are professionals a phone call away: (773) 325-7779 or 911 for emergency situations. You can find more information here:
<https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/ucs.aspx>
- The DePaul Dean of Students can help you with a wide range of topics, including figuring out if you should withdraw or apply for an incomplete:
<https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/dos.aspx>
- There are a lot of additional, more specific resources listed with the Office of Student Affairs, including crisis hotlines and sexual assault resources:
<https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/counseling/Pages/Crisis-Hotlines.aspx>

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University as aligned with our Vincentian Values

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore “what must be done” in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The

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preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at

<http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

Loop Campus (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus (773) 325-1677

Email: csd@depaul.edu

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gregory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.