

## Quick Links

- [Course Format](#)
- [Grading Policies](#)
- [Pre-Lectures](#)
- [Class Time](#)
- [Homework](#)
- [Machine Problems](#)
- [Quizzes and Final Exam](#)
- [Collaboration](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Absences and Missed Assessments](#)
- [Accommodations](#)
- [Statement of Inclusion](#)
- [Misconduct Reporting](#)
- [CS Code of Conduct](#)
- [FERPA](#)
- [Time Conflict Overrides](#)

## Online and in-person sections

There are two sections of CS 357:

- Section N: In-person, TR 12:30pm - 1:45pm CT, CIF 0035
- Section M: Online, TR 12:30am - 1:45pm CT (no assigned classroom)

ALL students will have to complete the **SAME** assessments via PrairieLearn: homework, quizzes, group activities, machine problems. CS 357 is a flipped course, thus all course content will be delivered via pre-recorded videos. **There will be no difference regarding course material or evaluation between these sections.**

The only difference between these sections is the scheduling and location of the weekly group activities:

- **Section N:** students will complete all group assessments in the classroom, during lecture time on Tuesdays. **Classroom attendance is required.** In case students cannot complete the task during class time, they will be able to make submissions outside of the class until 10pm.
- **Section M:** students will complete all group assessments on Tuesdays anytime between 12:30pm to 10pm, however they will be **highly** encouraged to complete the group assessments during class time. Student groups will select the location to meet: they can complete the assessments remotely, or they can select their favorite location to meet in-person. Since section M runs completely asynchronous, students in this section do not have any attendance requirement.

You must read the [Group Activities page](#) to get additional information.

**For the first 2 classes (week 1), all students will be expected to join class synchronously, whether in person (CIF 35) or connect remotely via [Zoom Meeting](#)**

## Grading Policies

## Grade Breakdown

Your grade is composed by the following assessments, all delivered via PrairieLearn.

Assessment	Contribution	Info
Final exam	15%	Delivered via PrairieLearn at the CBTF (asynchronously with self-registration).
Bi-weekly quizzes	35%	Delivered via PrairieLearn at the CBTF (asynchronously with self-registration). Read more <a href="#">here</a> .
Homework	25%	Submitted twice weekly via PrairieLearn.
MP	10%	Submitted 5 times during the semester via PrairieLearn.
Group Activity Completion	9%	Weekly group work to be completed on Tuesdays (read more <a href="#">here</a> ).
Group Activity Participation	2%	Weekly group work to be completed on Tuesdays (read more <a href="#">here</a> ). Participation is computed based on attendance for students in the in-person section and completion of group feedback survey for students in the online section.
Pre-Lecture Activity	4%	Pre-recorded videos available via PrairieLearn on Tuesdays and Thursdays with corresponding short questions

## Grading Scale

All your grade components will be added up with the percentage weights indicated and result in a single number. This number will determine your letter grade, according to the following scales:

### Grade Point Range

A	[93, 100)
A-	[90, 93)
B+	[87, 90)
B	[83, 87)
B-	[80, 83)
C+	[77, 80)
C	[73, 77)
C-	[70, 73)
D+	[67, 70)
D	[63, 67)
D-	[60, 63)
F	< 60

You should be able to calculate your own grade based on the information above. We reserve the right to lower these thresholds but we will never raise them. We will **not round grades**.

The top 5% students will receive an A+ (assuming that they all have 97 points or above, otherwise, all students with total points above 97 will receive an A+).

## General Rules

Any questions, concerns, or misgivings regarding a specific grade must be raised **within one week of the due date or the date the grade is released**. After one week has passed, the assigned grade is considered accepted and no further complaints will be considered.

## Late Adds

All course material is accessible to all students, independent of registration status. Students who plan to add the class late are expected to keep up with the content. No special accommodations will be provided for students who add the course late.

## Pre-Lecture Activities

You will complete two weekly pre-lecture assignments, corresponding to the Tuesdays and Thursdays lectures, which will appear in PrairieLearn with the label **L#**. You can find all the topics listed on the [Schedule page](#).

Each assignment will consist of short to medium size videos, and short questions corresponding to the video content. These are short activities that should be completed on the day they are open (Tuesdays and Thursdays), but they can be completed for 100% credit by the following Tuesday at the start of the class time. This schedule will ensure students complete watching the relevant material for the group activity on Tuesdays.

If you don't complete the pre-lecture activities before the Tuesday deadline, you have two other late deadlines for reduced credit:

- 80% credit if you complete the pre-lecture before the Tuesday of the quiz week that covers that topic;
- 50% credit if you complete the pre-lecture before the last day of classes.

You can find all the due dates directly in PrairieLearn. **You are strongly encouraged to complete all your pre-lectures by the 100% deadline**, to ensure you are ready to participate in the Tuesday group activities.

The 4 lowest scores will be dropped. The remaining assignments combined will count towards 4% of your final grade.

**The first two lectures will be offered synchronously in hybrid format.** Attendance is required, both in-person from CIF and online via [Zoom](#).

## Tuesdays and Thursday class time

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### Tuesdays: Group Activities

Students will be placed in groups of 2-3, and they will work together to complete an assignment delivered via PrairieLearn with the label **GA#**. Groups will be only formed starting from week 3, and students will have the opportunity to create their own groups during the first two weeks. Make sure to not miss the first two weeks of classes, so you can meet students during class before selecting your teams!

Students in section N (in-person) will complete this activity on Tuesdays in the classroom during lecture time. Attendance is required.

Students in section M (online) will complete this activity remotely, at a time and location of their choice. We will provide online support during class time via [Zoom](#). Attendance is not required.

You can find more information about the group activities, attendance requirements and grade calculation in the [Group Activities](#) page.

### Thursdays: Optional Study Hour

We cancel six Thursday classes during the semester to compensate for the time you spend taking quizzes at the CBTF (check the [Schedule page](#)).

On the other Thursdays, we use the lecture time as **Optional** Study Hours. Note that **we will not be covering new content during these classes** (new content is only introduced during the asynchronous online recorded pre-lectures). We use these classes to go over examples and/or questions included in your PrairieLearn assessments. Students from both sections are welcome to join at CIF 0035. Since the study hours are optional, we always have enough space to accommodate all students who want to participate!

## Homework

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The homework sets will be assigned via PrairieLearn with the label **HW#**. The due dates are indicated both in PrairieLearn and also in the [Schedule](#) page (the schedule may be subjected to changes during the semester). **Each homework is due at 11:59pm CT on the due date**. Note that office hours will not be offered after 8pm, and course staff will not be actively responding messages on Discord after 8pm. If you want to make sure you get assistance with your homework, you must **not** plan to complete it within the few hours before the deadline.

You will have at least one week to complete your homework for 100% credit. In addition, you will have two late deadlines for reduced credit:

- 96% credit if you complete the HW before the Tuesday of the quiz week that covers that HW topic;
- 50% credit if you complete the HW before the last day of classes.

You can find all the due dates directly in PrairieLearn. **You are strongly encouraged to complete all your HWs by the 100% deadline**.

The 2 lowest scores will be dropped. The remaining HWs combined will count towards 25% of your final grade.

## Machine Problems

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There will be a total of 5 MPs assigned via PrairieLearn with the label **MP#**. These are longer programming assignments. The due dates are indicated in the [Schedule](#) page (the schedule may be subjected to changes during the semester). **Each MP is due at 11:59pm CT on the due date**. Note that office hours will not be offered after 8pm, and course staff will not be actively responding messages on [Discord](#) after 8pm. If you want to make sure you get assistance with your MP, you must **not** plan to complete it within the few hours before the deadline.

You will have at least one week to complete your MPs for 100% credit. In addition, you will have two late deadlines for reduced credit:

- 96% credit if you complete the MP within one week of the 100% deadline.
- 50% credit if you complete the HW before the last day of classes.

You can find all the due dates directly in PrairieLearn. **You are strongly encouraged to complete all your MPs by the 100% deadline.**

There will be a total of 5 individual MPs, combined they will count towards 10% of your final grade. There is no drop of MP scores.

## Quizzes & Final Exam

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### Quizzes

Throughout the semester, you will take 6 quizzes (50-minute) that will have a mixture of short questions and short coding questions (similar to the questions that appear in your HW, L, GA and practice assessments).

Quizzes will count towards 35% of your final grade and the lowest score will be dropped.

Students **from all sections** will take quizzes at CBTF from Tuesday to Thursday during a quiz week. Students must self-schedule via [PrairieTest](#). The [Quizzes](#) pages show the week designated for each quiz. Make sure to read the CBTF policies [here](#).

You will have a **Practice Quiz** opening the week prior to each quiz. Your actual quiz will be generated using almost identical question pool used to generate the practice quizzes, with the exception of the coding questions. The practice quizzes will become unavailable on Sundays of the quiz week.

Students that have DRES accommodations will need to provide their letter of accommodation to CBTF by the end of week 2. You can find more information at the [CBTF website](#).

### Honor Code

These quizzes will follow the [CS honors code](#) and [UIUC Academic Integrity policies](#). You will be expected to comply with the Student Code, and the [rules of CBTF](#).

In addition, **you must not communicate with anyone about quiz content during the quiz period**. The quiz period goes from Tuesday to Sunday (in case some students end up receiving special accommodations). No questions should be posted on [Discord](#), or any other digital space, discussing quiz content.

### Quiz review

When you finish your quiz, you will see the correct answers and your score on the quiz. You will **not have access to the quiz once your assigned quiz period is finished**. If you want to talk about the quiz with a course staff, you **must** wait until the quiz period is over, and then you can ask questions on [Discord](#), or office hours.

### Final Exam

The final exam will be at the CBTF. You can find the tentative Final Exam Dates on the "Quizzes" page (the CBTF may still make some small adjustments to the schedule, but historically, we have always started our finals on Reading Day.)

## Collaboration

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### Quizzes and Final Exam:

You must not discuss **any** aspect of the quizzes and final exam until all students complete the assessment.

### Homework and MP:

You can *discuss* your approach with your peers. All parts of each homework set or machine problem must be your own work. You must have typed/written every part of your homework yourself. It is okay to copy code/pieces of work provided by the instructor and available on the course website (however, to keep good practice, you must acknowledge the source).

### Group Activities:

Here is your opportunity to learn, teach and interact with your peers! Exchange ideas, get creative, and make sure you carry your share of the work load.

### Use of LLM Tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini)

You are welcome to use Large Language Model (LLM) tools as part of your learning process in the same way you are encouraged to discuss ideas with your peers. LLMs can be helpful for clarifying concepts, giving hints, or offering alternative ways to think about a problem. However, it is essential that you use these tools responsibly. Asking an LLM to solve the assignment for you, or relying on its output without understanding it, does not support your learning. You may end up with correct answers on homework, MPs, or group activities, which together make up 50% of your grade, but you will very likely struggle on quizzes and the final exam, which make up the remaining 50% and must be completed individually without help (you don't get access to these tools inside the CBTF).

Formative assignments (homework, MPs, or group activities) exist to help you learn. You are expected to make sure you understand the material and can solve the problems on your own. LLM tools, peers, and course staff should support your thinking, not replace it. Ultimately, all work you submit must reflect your own understanding, reasoning, and effort. This will help you succeed in the course!

## Academic Integrity

Students that violate any of the course policies will face penalties as provided by campus rules regarding academic honesty.

Academic integrity infractions, harassment, and discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. See the University's Student Code, [Article 1, Part 4](#). Please see the [Students' Quick Reference Guide to Academic Integrity](#) for more details.

Please see the departmental [Honor Code](#) for details on integrity and procedures.

## Absences and Missed Assessments

We have created a very flexible assessment schedule, with late deadlines and drops. As such, we will **not give extensions to HWs, MPs and pre-lectures**.

Students can submit a request for excused absence (equivalent to a score getting dropped) if they are not able to attend the GAs or CBTF quizzes under the following circumstances:

- A. Illness
- B. Personal crisis (e.g. car accident, required court appearance, death of a close relative).
- C. Required attendance at an official UIUC activity (e.g. varsity athletics, band concert).

Before you submit the form, reach out to us on [Discord](#) via a private ticket as soon as you can. In some cases, we may be able to provide an extension at the CBTF. We approve excused absences only when students have a valid extended absence. Note that we allow one additional excused absence; if a second absence is needed, students will use the built-in drop already included in the course policies.

To request an excused absence, please fill out this [form](#) and upload an appropriate documentation that verifies the reason for the request. All approved excused assessments will be dropped from the final grade calculation. If you have any further questions about excused absence, reach out to us via a private ticket on [Discord](#).

## Accommodations

## Disabilities

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, e-mail [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu) or go to the [DRES website](#).

If you have accommodations identified by the Division of Rehabilitation-Education Services (DRES), please submit your DRES letter [here](#). If you have accommodations for quizzes (e.g extended time), you MUST contact [CBTF](#) directly.

## Mental Health

Diminished mental health, including significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, substance/alcohol abuse, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can interfere with optimal academic performance, social development, and emotional wellbeing. The University of Illinois offers a variety of confidential services including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric services, and specialized screenings at no additional cost. If you or someone you know experiences any of the above mental health concerns, it is strongly encouraged to contact or visit any of the University's resources provided below. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do – for yourself and for those who care about you.

Counseling Center: 217-333-3704, 610 East John Street Champaign, IL 61820

McKinley Health Center: 217-333-2700, 1109 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801

## Religious Observances

Illinois law requires the University to reasonably accommodate its students' religious beliefs, observances, and practices in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work requirements. You should examine this syllabus at the beginning of the semester for potential conflicts between course deadlines and any of your religious observances. If a conflict exists, you should notify your instructor of the conflict and follow the procedure at <https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/students/religious-observances> to request appropriate accommodations. This should be done in the first two weeks of classes.

## Statement on Racism and Inclusion

The intent is to raise student and instructor awareness of the ongoing threat of bias and racism and of the need to take personal responsibility in creating an inclusive learning environment.

The Grainger College of Engineering is committed to the creation of an anti-racist, inclusive community that welcomes diversity along a number of dimensions, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability status, class, age, or religious beliefs. The College recognizes that we are learning together in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement, that Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous voices and contributions have largely either been excluded from, or not recognized in, science and engineering, and that both overt racism and micro-aggressions threaten the well-being of our students and our university community.

The effectiveness of this course is dependent upon each of us to create a safe and encouraging learning environment that allows for the open exchange of ideas while also ensuring equitable opportunities and respect for all of us. Everyone is expected to help establish and maintain an environment where students, staff, and faculty can contribute without fear of personal ridicule, or intolerant or offensive language. If you witness or experience racism, discrimination, micro-aggressions, or other offensive behavior, you are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the course director if you feel comfortable. You can also report these behaviors to the [Campus Belonging Team](#).

## Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligation

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options.

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found [here](#).

Other information about resources and reporting is available [here](#).

# CS CARES, CS Values and Code of Conduct

All members of the Illinois Computer Science department - faculty, staff, and students - are expected to adhere to the [CS Values and Code of Conduct](#). The [CS CARES Committee](#) is available to serve as a resource to help people who are concerned about or experience a potential violation of the Code. If you experience such issues, please [contact the CS CARES Committee](#). The instructor of this course are also available for issues related to this class.

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <https://registrar.illinois.edu/academic-records/ferpa> for more information on FERPA.

## Request for Time Conflict Overrides

Students registered in the online section will complete all assessments online via PrairieLearn. This course uses a flipped format – there are no traditional lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Instead, students complete pre-lecture assignments delivered online via PrairieLearn. On Tuesdays, students will complete a group assessment, which can be completed during lecture time (optional support from staff via online meeting) or can be completed at another time during the same day, upon agreement of group members. There will be weekly asynchronous quizzes at CBTF. To be approved for a time conflict override, students must understand it is their responsibility to find other students to complete the group activities on Tuesdays. If you agree with the terms above, you can contact the CS Advising Office directly to request time conflict override to register in the online section. They will process the override request. Note that students should not contact the professor to request the override approval.