Students in previous offerings of CS-312 were asked the following question: "What advice would you give to students who will take this course in the future?" Here are some of their responses.

- If you pay attention, you'll leave this course with a new appreciation for what computer science is.

- A lot of things in this course won't make sense at first to the average person. You aren't expected to miracously figure everything out in one go. Instead, opt for breaking big problems into smaller problems. If you struggle with doing something, take some good time to practice. If you struggle with understanding something, the book is actually really helpful in this class, but by almost means don't hesitate to ASK!

- The first few lessons might be easy, but don't get lax. The concepts progress very quickly.

- Don't underestimate the class because of the early content — the later stuff is much harder and less intuitive, in my opinion.

- Read the book before and after class; most likely it will take you that long to understand some of the material.

- Some things will not make sense when you first see them. Reading the book ahead of time or after you've seen it helps extremely.

- Read the book; it's extremely well-written so even us mortals can understand it.

- ALWAYS read the book. It's very easy to understand and will provide extra clarity for the course material when notes are not enough.

- If you don't understand fully, the book can definitely offer new ways to think about a topic.

- Read the textbook, it'll help with homework which will help with exams.

- Don't be afraid to "look dumb". This class benefits heavily from questions and clarifications as the topic material is hard. Also your classmates are in the same boat as you.

- Ask lots of questions about homework in the class after you get the assignment; you get to understand how to do most questions.

- Once you get the homework, familiarize yourself with a couple of problems, so you can mull over them throughout the week. That way, when you sit down to do the homework or meet with your group, you won't have to spend half an hour understanding the problems, and might already have a solution in mind.

- Do the homework on your own first before consulting with your homework group.

- Attempt some of the homework after lecture, so if you have questions you can bring them up in class.

- The homework is hard, but that's what your group is for. Don't divide and conquer, take time to work together. I promise it helps.

- Don't divide and conquer on the homework, do the homework yourself and use the HW groups to let your group members teach one another the content.

- Study and ask questions as often as possible.

- During lecture, do not feel bad about asking questions about the first couple slides, even if the class has moved on to the last few slides.

- Stay on top of the ball and either understand the homework while doing it in a group, or do it yourself *before* you work in a group.

- Doing homework in groups is a good idea, but don't forget to study and read the book independently as well.

- Meet with your homework group often.

- Do the homework early. The earlier you do it, the more time you get to ask questions because you're going to need it.

- Homeworks get harder as you go, so be sure to work with your homework groups.

- Do the homework ahead of time, before meeting with your group. Do not meet with your group the day your homework is due if you can help it! You have a week to do the homework, don't put it off until the last minute.

- Work with your group members. They'll often have completely different approaches to problems that you can learn from. If you are the smartest in the group, explaining the material only makes you stronger. If you are the weakest member, learn from the smarter ones. If you are somewhere in-between, bouncing ideas off of each other helps a lot.

- Make sure you understand how to solve all the homework problems before the exam.

- Understand the homework problems before going into the tests.

- Make sure you can answer all of the homework questions before taking the exam. Same applies to mock exam questions.

- Do the mock exam! It is the best study resource you have for the test because the questions are usually very similar.

- Make sure that you go over the homework when you get it back.

- Do whatever you can to understand the concepts and the variations of their applications. Knowing how to setup DFAs and Turing machines using JFLAP is just not enough.

- Practice using JFLAP and creating the DFAs, NFAs, and TMs. The tests have a lot to do with them. Also, practice your proof writing, those are also on the tests.

- Get familiar with JFLAP. It's an invaluable resource.
- Take the practice exams seriously and actually prepare for them. It helps a lot!
- This is a tough class, but that doesn't mean it's impossible. Do lots of practice problems and take time to undersatnd the proofs.
- Make sure you understand reducibility proofs in the right direction! This applies to decidability and NP-complete problems.
- Early content is deceptively simple, so make sure to pay attention in class and ask lots of questions.
- Ask questions if you are unsure about something, either on the homework or during lecture.
- The concepts are hard, but ask questions. Dr. Huggins explains things well.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. The material can be challenging but the Professor is willing to help.
- ASK QUESTIONS! You won't always get the idea the first time around.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions in class.
- Always talk to Dr. Huggins. The material is hard, but he is very helpful when you ask him.
- Your instructor is your best friend. Whenever you feel unsure about course material, don't be afraid to ask for help in his office.
- Utilize student office hours! Dr. Huggins is super helpful to talk to for help and extremely flexible for meeting times when contacted.
- Dr. Huggins likes teaching this stuff; stop by to say "hi" and ask questions if you get stuck.
- Go to class, or you won't understand the topics.
- Come to every lecture and stay awake!
- Don't miss a class or it'll look more Greek than it already is.
- NEVER skip this class; it's one of the few where if you miss one class you're screwed for a few weeks.
- The internet is not a great resource for this course. Google will not save you if you don't go to class.
- It is just as hard the second time around, so just pass it the first time.
- Distract Dr. Huggins often. (*Editor's Note:* hey!)
- This class will stretch your mind; prepare for mental exercise.
- Never forget the pumping llama.
- Write the whole pumping lemma at least 100 times. Trust me.

- Don't cheat. You're better off with a 60 than you are with a 0.

- Don't give up. You are not alone with not knowing what's going on.

- When storing cookies, they will stay fresh for longer if you place bread into the container along with them.

- Good luck!