

Announcement for FPP Students Concerning the Final Programming Test

1. A two-hour programming test will be given on the afternoon of the last Thursday of class. The test will have two programming problems of medium-level difficulty (by comparison with the FPP labs).
2. The programming test will cover data structures and OO programming. Later in the course, your instructor will provide you with more details about the types of questions you can expect on the programming test.
3. The programming test will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis by the team in charge of the FPP/MPP program. Students must get a score of 70% or higher on *each problem* on the test. Students who pass the test will get their grade on the basis of midterm, final, and other evaluations determined by the instructor. Students who do not pass the test *will not be allowed to continue on to MPP* but, at the discretion of the teacher, may be allowed to *repeat FPP*.
4. The highest grade a student who fails the FPP programming test may receive is "C+".
5. Final grades for students who pass the programming test will be determined by the professor, based on student performance on exams, labs, and other evaluation materials that the professor may have used. **Important:** Passing the programming test *does not guarantee* that a student will pass FPP.
6. **Reason for the Programming Test.** One of the most important objectives of FPP for students is to be able to write Java programs to solve intermediate-level problems. Students need to be able to write functioning programs and to be able to debug them effectively enough to remove compiler and runtime errors. When students have managed once in awhile to graduate from FPP without having developed these skills, the result has been that these students continually struggle to catch up in their later courses, and those courses are slowed down considerably because professors need to teach material and skills that were supposed to be covered in FPP. The programming test is a way of ensuring that students' knowledge and skill level have met the necessary standard. The exam is standardized to prevent any unfair bias—every FPP instructor during a block will administer the same standardized test.