BERRY COLLEGE | CSC101 Introduction to Computing

Fall 2025

Our Purpose: *Prepare for the study of Computer Science.*

Tools

Virtual machines, Linux, Productivity software, Version control, Development tools

Skills

Touch typing, Command line usage, Excel spreadsheets, File system management, Cybersecurity, Networking

Concepts

Boolean logic, Data representation, Compression, Formal grammars, Graph algorithms, Hashing

Course Description

(1-0-1) An introduction to essential tools, techniques, and computing concepts that are used and taught throughout the Computer Science major. This course is intended for first-year Computer Science majors. *May not be taken after CSC120 for credit towards the Computer Science major.*

Time & Place

W 1- 1:50pm • MAC 233

Instructor

Nadeem Abdul Hamid
nhamid@berry.edu
Office: MAC 354B
706.368.5632

Student Hours

M W 11am-1pm
T H 12-1pm
/ by appt.

Student Learning Outcomes & Assessment Measures

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Work with tools commonly used in software development and computer science. *Measured through* in-class participation and weekly activities.
- Demonstrate basic proficiency in prerequisite skills for studying computer science. *Measured through* completion of online learning modules.
- Reproduce the operation of representative computational algorithms. *Measured through* weekly puzzle challenges.

Academic Integrity

- ☑ Do your own work.
- ☑ Do not look at others' work, use it to complete your own, or pass it off as yours.
- ☑ Give credit to all sources (including gen AI).

Violations will result in negative point penalty per assignment and notification of the Provost, per Berry College Catalog policy.

Evaluation Components

Attendance Class attendance is expected and required. Missing three (3) or more classes without justifiable reason (and advance notice/appropriate documentation) will be considered excessive absence and grounds for being administratively withdrawn from the course. See the Berry Viking Code for "Class Attendance Policies". — 14 pts

Touch Typing You will be expected to either demonstrate the ability to properly touch type (without looking at the keyboard) at a minimum of 50-60 words per minute, or show progress towards that goal over the course of the semester through regular (at least 1 hr/week) engagement with an online training and practice resource. — 5 pts

LinkedIn Learning You will be assigned several modules to complete on your own, outside of class, over the course of the semester. These resources are freely accessible through your Berry SSO login at https://myapps.berry.edu. (1 pt each) — 7 pts

Advent of Cyber (2024 edition) A freely accessible set of interactive tasks to learn the basics of cybersecurity. Note that regular users get only 1 hour of access per day to the "AttackBox" VM necessary to complete the tasks. — 1 pt/day (10 max)

Weekly Challenges A set of puzzles and activities designed or curated for this course based on topics covered during class meetings. (2pts each) — 16 pts

Pixel Art Competition A pixel art creation competition where you will be expected to make at least one submission. The contest will be open to the entire campus as well. — 5 pts

Github Repo Contribs You will be expected to demonstrate facility working with version control systems by contributing to a course repository. — 5 pts

Jeopardy Questions You will contribute questions to a set of "answers" on several topics, which will be used to construct a Jeopardy game that we will play in teams as a class. — 10 pts

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Grading Scale

Your final grade in the course will be based on completion of the components listed to the left and your earned point score as follows:

To earn:	A	B	C	D	F
Points required:	60	55	50	40	<40

These thresholds will not be raised, but may be lowered by the end of the semester if adjustments to the schedule are made.

Additionally, to earn an A in the course, a minimum of the following must be met:

- ○ 12 points attendance (i.e. no more than two absences)
- ○ 6 LinkedIn Learning certificates earned
- ○ 5 days of Advent of Cyber tasks completed
- ○ A Pixel Art Competition entry submitted
- ○ Weekly typing practice demonstrated or achievement of 60+ WPM rate with an 85%+ accuracy rate

If any of these thresholds is not met, the maximum final letter grade in the course will be capped at a B.

Class Schedule

A detailed schedule of class topics, activities, and assignments is provided separately and will be posted on the Canvas course page.

Accommodation Statement

The Academic Success Center provides accessibility resources, including academic accommodations, to students with diagnosed differences and/or disabilities. If you need accommodations for this or other classes, please visit berry.edu/asc for information and resources. You may also reach out at 706-233-4080. Please note, faculty are not required, as part of any temporary or long-term accommodation, to distribute recordings of class sessions.

http://cs.berry.edu/csc101

CSC 101 - Fall 2025 - Schedule

Date	Class Topic(s)	Weekly Activity Timeline [approx. hours in brackets]								Assignments				
		Git & Github [4]	Linux CLI [3]	Excel [1.5]	DevCareers [.75]	MacOS [1]	Windows [2]	Networking [2]	P. Graham [2]	WTQ	Weekly Challenge	PixelArt Competn.	Typing Practice	Advent of Cyber
Wednesday, August 27, 2025	Welcome, Intro Account & SW setup													
Wednesday, September 3, 2025	Git & GitHub Markdown; VS Code										GHP			
Wednesday, September 10, 2025	*Boolean logic Satisfiability*										SAT			
Wednesday, September 17, 2025	Linux; Command-Line Interfaces									Linux/CLI	LSH			
Wednesday, September 24, 2025	Productivity and Data MS Excel										XGB			
Wednesday, October 1, 2025	Linux Game Day										EXT			
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	*Quadtrees*										QDT			
Wednesday, October 15, 2025	*L-systems, Grammars*										LSY			
Wednesday, October 22, 2025	*Compression*										ZIP			
Wednesday, October 29, 2025	Pixel Art Awards													
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	*Hashing*													
Wednesday, November 12, 2025	*Graph Algorithms*									Networks				
Wednesday, November 19, 2025	Networks Game Day													
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	Conclusion													

Schedule subject to change.

GHP = Github Pages • SAT = Boolean Satisfiability problem • LSH = Linux scavenger hunt • XGB = Student grade book worksheet
EXT = File format puzzle • QDT = Decode a quad-tree image encoding • LSY = L-system design • ZIP = Decoding compression.