

PClassic Information, Rules, & Schedule

The [Philadelphia Classic](#) (“PClassic”) is a four-hour programming competition held each semester at the University of Pennsylvania. This year (Spring 2025), the competition will be held **virtually** on Codeforces. It is open to students in grades 5-12 at public or private middle school or high schools, or (for home-schooled students) of equivalent age.

Each team consists of up to four participants. Schools may, and are encouraged to, have multiple teams.

Each team **must have a laptop** which is set up for Java, Python or C++ programming. Each team **must have exactly 1 Codeforces account** to use for the contest. Submissions will be submitted via that account. The contest will open up at 1:00 pm ET on the contest date.

PClassic Spring 2025 will take place online on **Saturday, April 26, 2025**.

Schedule (ET)

12:00	Opening ceremony
1:00	Competition begins on Codeforces
5:00	Competition ends
5:20	Closing and Awards

Contest Format

- Teams of up to four (≤ 4)
- Four (4) hours of competition time
- Two divisions (**please see division breakdown below**)
- 8 questions for each division, adjusted for difficulty & time limit
 - Some more difficult questions for Classic Division may overlap with some less difficult questions for Advanced Division
- Submission and scoring will be done via Codeforces
- We will **NOT** be providing stubs for this competition
 - We highly recommend you to be familiar with parsing inputs and handling I/O before the competition. This can be done by trying out a few problems on Codeforces!
 - A parsing tutorial can be found on our website.
 - You will have time (from approximately 12:00-1:00) to test out I/O on the day of the competition and ask any questions that you may have.

Permitted

- One Java, Python, C++ or Computer Science textbook for reference
- Referring to Javadocs (specifically: [Java 8](#)) or equivalent Python 3 or C++17 documentation
- **EXACTLY** one computer, setup for Java, Python or C++ programming
- Using the internet for problem submission

Not Permitted

- Use of electronic devices other than the team's computers
- Use of multiple keyboards (e.g. to enable multiple teammates to code independently)
- Getting help during the contest from people other than your teammates
- Use of the internet for anything else not explicitly permitted above
- Use of generative AI for coding.

Divisions

There are two divisions for this competition: **Classic** and **Advanced**. The **Advanced** division is meant for competitors who have non-negligible competitive programming experience. To assist in your decision of which division to sign up for, we encourage those who are familiar and comfortable with the following topics to sign up for the **Advanced** division. If you are not familiar with these topics, then we recommend that you sign up for the **Classic Division**.

List of topics for **Advanced Division**:

- BFS
- DFS
- Dijkstra's
- Dynamic Programming
- Segment Trees
- Strong Math Foundation

Please note that these rules are subject to change. We will aim to make any substantial rule changes in advance of the competition so there is no confusion on the day of.