

Introductory Computer Science Classes

	CS 160	CS 161	CS 162
Course Title	Exploring Computer Science	Introduction to Programming and Problem Solving	Introduction to Computer Science
Who should take this class?	<p>Any of these statements are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have no programming experience. • You want to explore Computer Science to see if you like it. • You are not super confident in your math skills. • You just want to take one class to learn some programming. • You want a slower-paced learning environment for your first CS class. 	<p>All of these statements are true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You have little to no prior programming experience. 2. You are confident in your math skills. 3. You are comfortable with a fast-paced learning environment. 	<p>All of these statements are true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You have at least 10 weeks of experience writing complete programs independently in a high level programming language 2. You can apply conditionals, loops, and arrays 3. You can break problems into functions and implement those using arguments and returned values 4. You have experience with arrays (or lists) 5. <i>You completed and passed the self-assessment</i> 6. You are ready to learn to work in a new environment (linux) while learning a new language (C++).
Programming Language	JavaScript + Python	Python	C++
Operating System for Coursework	Mac / Windows / *nix / Chrome	Mac / Windows / *nix / Chrome	Linux
Expected prior knowledge	None.	<p>Math 111Z*</p> <p><i>*Please note that Math 111 is an imperfect way to assess the logical thinking and problem solving skills you will need in 161. Consider consulting professor Ely during his office hours if you are unsure.</i></p>	<p>A <i>grade of C or better</i> in CS 161 OR <i>Equivalent</i> Programming Experience: This does not mean 'I picked up a few things on my own' — this is something more like 'I took AP CS and did well in it.'</p>

	CS 160	CS 161	CS 162
How does this class fit into a CS major or minor?	Lower division elective. After taking CS 160, if you want to pursue CS further, 161 is a great next step.	Lower division elective. If you do not pass with at least a C, then you are not ready for CS 162.	The first required course for both the major and minor.
How often is this course taught?	Every fall, winter, and spring quarter (currently no summer offering, but this may change if there is significant demand)	Every quarter, including summer.	Every quarter, including summer.

If you are not sure what the right place is for you, please reach out to one of the instructors:

CS 160: Michael Wilson mmw23@pdx.edu, FAB 120-09

CS 161: David Ely ely@pdx.edu, FAB 120-17

CS 162: Karla Fant karlaf@pdx.edu, FAB 120-26

If you are struggling to decide between CS 160 and CS 161, you are encouraged to contact either instructor. We don't bite! And would be more than happy to help you find the right class for you.

Typically, CS 160 and CS 161 will be offered in the same time block to make it possible for you to switch between the two classes during the first 2 weeks of the quarter in case you realize after a few classes that you might be in the wrong place.