
CSC 100

The Beauty and Joy of Computing

Success in College

or...

Toto, I have a feeling we're not in high school any more.

Notes for CSC 100 - The Beauty and Joy of Computing
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Upcoming deadlines / expectations

Before Friday lab:

- Read "Pre-lab reading" portion of Lab 1 (on the class web site)

Before Monday class:

- Read two articles linked from the Readings section of the class web page
 - "Coding is coming to every industry you can think of..."
 - "A commencement speech..."
- Ideas for "story of the day?"

Random College Advice 1

You are responsible for your own learning.

Typical high school week: 35 hours in class, 5-10 hours homework

Typical college week: 15 hours in class, 30 hours "homework"

This is not just more high school! "Homework" is not just for practice, or reinforcement - it's a primary way you learn!

Related to this:

High school attitude: If it was important, the teacher would have said it

College attitude: Important things might come from outside readings

"Whatever be the qualifications of your tutors, your improvement must chiefly depend on yourselves. They cannot think or labor for you, they can only put you in the best way of thinking and laboring for yourselves. If therefore you get knowledge, you must acquire it by your own industry."
- from the 1792 dedication of New College, London.

Follow-up to "Advice 1"

Figure-it-out Question:

High school: Grimsley High School has 56 minute class periods (who thought that up?!?), five days a week. Each semester has two 9-week grading periods. How many hours are you in class in one semester?

College: UNCG classes meet either 50 minutes for 3 days a week, or 75 minutes 2 days a week. A semester is 14 weeks long. How many hours are you in class on semester?

Use whatever resources you have available to you here: talk to other students, use a calculator, whatever... Let me know when you have an answer.

Follow-up to "Advice 1"

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College: UNCG classes meet either 50 minutes for 3 days a week, or 75 minutes 2 days a week. A semester is 14 weeks long. How many hours are you in class on semester?

Answer:
High school semester has 84 hours "contact time"
College semester has 35 hours "contract time"

Now consider: A college class will cover material that would be covered in 1.5 to 2 high school semesters.

Take-away: You do most of the learning on your own time!

Random College Advice 2

Keep on top of your schedule!

Less class time means fewer reminders - more responsibility on you!

More on personal responsibility:

- Don't expect to be "rescued"!
- Learn how to study - it's not just reading!
- Take notes
- Don't over-commit
- Learn to focus
- Present yourself and your work professionally



Don't miss the boat!

Random College Advice 3

You are responsible for your own success.

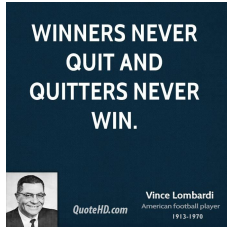
If you are struggling with material, you need to seek help!

All instructors have office hours; most will schedule other times if you need them; tutors and other help resources are often available.

But the first step is yours:
Admit when you need help!

Don't give up: Your education is the most important thing you can do for your future.

Don't let anything take away your future!



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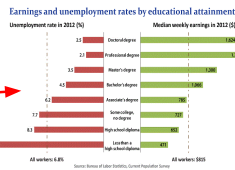
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Random College Advice 4

Readings are not just a bunch of facts to remember!

They are ideas to understand, connect to other ideas, and connect to your own life. Always ask why? (Indulge your inner 3 year old!)

When you are reading you should constantly be questioning what you're reading, trying to judge your own grasp of the material (big word of the day: "meta-cognition"), and trying to make connections with other things you know.

Almost a mini-scientific method: constantly question whether your conceptions (your "hypothesis" or "model") agrees with what you are seeing/reading.

I'll help you with this: Reading Reflection Questionnaires

Random College Advice 5

Do the readings before class!

Class time should be for discussion, clarifying issues you're uncertain about, taking things in new and interesting directions, ...

Class time should not be for simply repeating what's in the book in "lecture form" - you're all literate, so we shouldn't have to have "reading time!"

Think about this:

University professors are often among the world's top experts in their field
You can read - think about what you'd like to ask an expert as you read!

Random College Advice 6

Practice!

No one expects to be good at a sport or musical instrument without practice, so why should academic or technical skills be any different?

Assigned tasks shouldn't be all you do!

Be curious and explore - just to learn and get better, not for a grade or credit.

I know you've heard it a thousand times before. But it's true - hard work pays off. If you want to be good, you have to practice, practice, practice. If you don't love something, then don't do it. - Ray Bradbury

Random College Advice 7

Do things that make you uncomfortable!

Getting out of your "comfort zone" is the way you grow as a person. Whether this is pushing yourself academically, participating in extracurricular activities, getting to know people with different backgrounds, ... Experience new things!

And if living off campus: Spend more time on campus than you "need to"

What's coming up next...

Things for you to do:

- *Make sure you can access your UNCG email!*
- Fill out the background/interests survey (a link will be emailed to you)
- Test out the class discussion forum by posting a reply to the "Welcome" message

On Friday: Your first lab - remember to come to Petty 222

- Remember to do the Pre-Lab Reading!

Before Monday class:

- Two readings on class web page
- Ideas for "story of the day?"
