

Course Outline

CS1026A Fall 2026: Computer Science Fundamentals I

Sections 001, 002, & 650

1. Course Information

Course Information

CS 1026 introduces the basic concepts of computer programming and program design. It is intended for students who have interest in learning basic programming skills including those who intend to study Computer Science. This course assumes no previous programming background, although having some experience with programming is an asset. Programming skills will be developed using the Python programming language. Course topics include: data types, variables, expressions, program constructs, strings (text), functions, basic data structures (lists, tuples, sets, and dictionaries), objects, object-oriented design, classes, modularity, and problem- solving techniques. Programming examples and assignments are taken from a variety of disciplines.

Antirequisite(s):

Computer Science 1025A/B, Computer Science 2120A/B, Data Science 1200A/B, Engineering Science 1036A/B, Digital Humanities 2220A/B.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Section	Email	Office	Office Hours
Daniel Servos (Course coordinator)	001 & 002			
William Beldman (Online section)	650			

Email Contact & Forums

We generally try to respond to emails in two business days (non-holiday, weekdays). It is important to start working on assignments early, such that we have enough time to respond to your questions before the due date.

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors or TAs. **We will be unable to respond to e-mails sent from other email providers** for privacy reasons. Include the **course code** (CS1026A) and your **section number** in the subject line of emails to avoid your emails being sent to our spam folder.

Please also note that Python source files (files ending in .py) are blocked by Western's e-mail server. Place your code in your OneDrive folder and share a link to it. Alternatively, instructors can access submissions you have made to Gradescope.

For sections 001 and 002 (the in-person sections), please post general questions about course content and assignments to the Brightspace course forums. Do not post full solutions to the course forums and only include the minimal number of lines of code to address your question. Email should be used for personal questions regarding absences, accommodations, evaluation of your work, your specific code/solution, etc.

Computer Science Help Center & Peer Assisted Learning

Course TAs will be available to assist students with course material and assignments in the Computer Science Help Centre, which can be found in [REDACTED]. Hours will be posted once finalized.

The Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Centre also offers free one-on-one peer tutoring, sessions to help develop effective learning strategies, and course-specific help for CS1026. You can find more details on their website: https://learning.uwo.ca/peer_assisted_learning/

3. Class Schedule, Delivery Mode, & Technology Requirements

Class Schedule

Section	Tuesday	Thursday
001	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM [REDACTED]	9:30 AM to 10:30 AM [REDACTED]
002	12:30 PM to 2:30 PM [REDACTED]	1:30 PM to 2:30 PM [REDACTED]
650	Asynchronous	Asynchronous

Delivery Mode

All CS1026 sections (001, 002, and 650) cover the same topics, learning outcomes, policies, quizzes, exams, and assessments; the only difference is how class time is used.

- **Section 001:** Active-Learning Lecture. Short instructor explanations alternate with brief in-class activities (e.g., polls, quick coding tasks, think-pair-share). You'll practice concepts in short bursts occasionally during the lecture.
- **Section 002:** Flipped. You watch short videos before class to learn new concepts; class time is mostly guided practice and small-group problem solving with instructor/TA support.
- **Section 650:** Asynchronous videos with in-person exams. You watch short videos to learn new concepts. Both the midterm and final exam will be in-person.

In all sections you'll use OWL Brightspace and the same course materials; no section offers bonus credit or any intentional advantage in terms of grading. The same video lectures will be made available to students in all sections.

Keep in mind that space in each section is limited, and switching sections after the last day to add a course (September 17th, 2026) may not be possible. If you would like to switch your section after September 17th, please contact the instructor directly and we will try to accommodate your request if space permits.

Technology Requirements

To participate fully in this course, you are required to have a laptop (for sections 001 and 002). Python 3.12 (or more recent), and an integrated development environment (IDE) that supports Python is required for all sections. Using PyCharm as your IDE is recommended. Either the free trial or pro versions of PyCharm are sufficient for the course. You can obtain a free copy of the Pro version of PyCharm via the PyCharm for Students program: <https://lp.jetbrains.com/pycharm-for-students/>

You will also need a web browser and reliable Internet connection capable of viewing YouTube videos and submitting assignments online (via Gradescope and OWL Brightspace). You will be required to accept the terms of use and privacy agreements for all required software and services to take this course.

For sections 001 and 002, some in-class activities may require the use of a laptop computer that is capable of connecting to Western's Wi-Fi network. It is highly recommended that you bring your laptop to class so you can fully participate in examples and activities. For section 002, a laptop is required during class. For section 001, either a laptop or device capable of running iClicker (e.g. a smartphone or tablet) is required during class.

Tentative Topics

- Introduction to Computers & Python
- Variables & Types
- Input/Output
- Conditionals
- Loops
- Functions
- Lists, Tuples, Sets, and Dictionaries
- Exception Handling
- Sorting Fundamentals
- Recursion Fundamentals
- Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming

Key Sessional Dates

Classes begin: September 9, 2026; January 4, 2027

Fall Reading Week: October 10 – 18, 2026

Winter Reading Week: February 13 – 21, 2027

Classes end: December 9, 2026; April 9, 2027

Exam period*: December 11 – 22, 2026; April 12 – 30, 2027

** You must be available during the exam period (even for the online 650 section). Planning travel during these dates will not be grounds for a special (makeup) exam.*

4. Course Materials

Required Textbook

This course has one **required** zyBook (an online eTextbook):

Title: COMPSCI 1026A/B: Computer Science Fundamentals I

zyBook Code: [UWOCOMPSCI1026A-BServosFall2026](#)

Author: Bailey Miller

You may either purchase an access key from [the Western Book Store](#) or purchase the eTextbook directly from zyBook's site. The price of the text from the Book Store is \$75 **CDN**. The price of the text from zyBook's site is \$52.50 **USD**. **Note that these are approximately the same price with the conversion rate** and the bookstore may be cheaper after currency conversion fees charged by your credit card.

Each week assigned readings from this text will be posted to the OWL Brightspace course site as well as recommended homework and studying activities. Completing these readings and homework the week they are posted is highly recommended but **ungraded** for both the in-person (001 & 002) and online (650) sections. The textbook is online and interactive, so used or physical copies of text are not available.

OWL Course Site

Course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) and their Western email regularly for news and updates (at *least* once a week before class). This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Each week on Monday you **must** check both the announcements and the weekly overview page on OWL.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

iClicker (Section 001 Only)

iClicker (<https://www.iclicker.com/>) will be used for section 001 and will be used for tracking participation and attendance. This software is free for Western students and can be used on either your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. The mobile app requires iPhone/iPad: iOS 16.0 or later, or Android: OS 16.0+, the web browser version requires a modern web browser.

For support with iClicker, please contact iClicker's support team at <https://www.iclicker.com/support>.

Gradescope

Gradescope (<http://gradescope.ca>) will be used for assignments and some in-class activities and labs. This software is free for Western students and made available via a modern web browser (supports both Windows and macOS).

Zoom & Webcam

Zoom may be used for some online office hours. Attending an online office hour requires the Zoom (<https://zoom.us>) software installed, a webcam, and microphone (can be built into your computer or webcam).

You must use your Western account with Zoom for online office hours.. Select the single-sign-on (SSO) when logging in to Zoom and sign in to your Western (@uwo.ca) account.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Course Element	Weight
Labs (x10)	1% each, 8% in total (<i>lowest two dropped</i>)
Weekly Quizzes (x11)	1% each, 9% in total (<i>lowest two dropped</i>)
Assignments (x4)	23% in total (<i>see assignments section for breakdown</i>)
Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	35%

Essential Learning Requirements

Even when Academic Consideration is granted for missed coursework, the following are essential to earn a passing grade in this course:

1. Obtain at least a 45% weighted average² on the midterm and final exam.
2. Attend and obtain a passing grade on at least 5 of the 10 labs.
3. Submit at least 2 of the 4 assignments and receive a non-zero grade³ on both submitted assignments.
4. Only for sections 001 and 002: Attend at least 40% of the required lectures which count for participation.

If you fail to satisfy any of these criteria, your maximum final grade for this course **will be capped at 48%**.

When a student has not demonstrated proficiency in an essential learning requirement listed above, and when the shortfall results from a granted Academic Consideration, they will be withdrawn (WDN) from the course. The student may appeal to the Associate Dean (Academic) for reinstatement with an Incomplete (INC) standing. Where an appeal for INC is granted, their maximum course load may be reduced during the term in which they complete the outstanding course requirements.

5.1. Assignments

There will be Python programming assignments based on topics you learned from the lectures, labs, and zyBook readings. Each assignment will require you to implement one or more Python programs based on a given specification (assignment document).

All assignments are due via Gradescope at 11:59 PM on the given due date unless stated otherwise. If an assignment must be cancelled **by the instructors** for any reason, the remaining assignments will be re-weighted to add up to 23%.

A **tentative** (*subject to change*) schedule of assignments is given below (*see the OWL course site for official due dates and assignment descriptions*):

Assignment	Tentative Due Date	Weight (of your final grade)
1	Friday Oct. 2nd	4%
2	Friday Oct. 30th	5%
3	Friday Nov. 20th	7%
4	Wednesday Dec. 9th	7%

Assignments will be posted to OWL Brightspace at least one week before the official due date.

² This weighted average is calculated by multiplying each assessment score by its assigned weight (the percentage it contributes to the final grade), then adding these values together. This total is divided by the sum of the weights to determine the overall average as a percentage.

³ If it is found that you committed an academic offence on an assignment, it will not count towards completion of this essential learning requirement.

Assignment Rules & Policies

The following rules and policies apply to all assignments:

1. Gradescope and Automated Tests:

- a. All assignments must be submitted via Gradescope. No assignments will be accepted via email, OWL, or any other method.
- b. A large portion of each assignment's grade will come from auto-graded tests and the rest will come from programming style, formatting, logic, comments, etc. Some of the tests will be provided, but other parts of the tests may be hidden from you. You should still do your own testing locally to ensure your code works properly for all valid inputs. **It is your responsibility to ensure the tests run and pass on Gradescope in order to get full marks.**
- c. Students are expected to leave enough time before the due date to correct any errors indicated by the Gradescope tests. Auto-graded tests will **not** be manually regraded, but you may resubmit an unlimited number of times leading up to the due date.
- d. Any attempts to “hardcode” or otherwise “fool” the autograder will result in a zero grade on that test even if the test shows as passing on Gradescope. Teaching assistants may also remove points for failing to follow rules given in the assignment (e.g. some assignments may forbid the use of certain libraries or require that certain functional and nonfunctional requirements are met).

2. Regrade Requests:

- a. If you disagree with the grading of the portions of your assignment that were manually graded by a teaching assistant or have questions about how the mark was determined, you should submit a regrade request via Gradescope **within one (1) week of the assignment being returned to you**. The teaching assistant who marked your assignment will review your request and determine if any adjustment is necessary. If you feel the response to your regrade request was not sufficient, you may bring the issue to the attention of your course instructor (via email).
- b. No regrade requests will be considered if they are submitted outside of Gradescope (e.g. via email), and no regrade requests will be considered after one (1) week of the assignment being returned.
- c. No regrade requests will be considered for automated tests. It is your responsibility to ensure that any automated tests on Gradescope are passed before making your final submission.

3. Academic Integrity for Assignments:

- a. **Assignments are to be done individually, not in groups or with the aid of others** (including tutors or using code from online and other sources). Submitted code will be run through a similarity-checking software. Any students with significantly high similarity will be referred to the department's integrity committee and will receive a zero grade. (The integrity committee or Dean's office may apply additional penalties.) **Do not copy or share code in any way. Do not look at or receive another student's code.**
- b. **You may not use generative AI or tools capable of generating code or comments for assignments.** Use of these tools on assignments will result in a zero grade and referral to the department's integrity committee.

- c. **You may not use code you have previously written from past courses or past terms** without written permission from the course instructor.
- d. **You may not share or otherwise publish your code online (e.g. to GitHub)** until one month after the course has completed. It is your responsibility to ensure any remote backups or version control systems used are private and not publicly accessible.
- e. **You may not write code to intentionally manipulate or interfere with the function of the Gradescope autograder.** This includes attempting to reveal test cases that are intended to be hidden, falsely altering the grade given by the autograder, manipulating late coupons or due dates, or any action that would violate Gradescope's terms of use.

4. Late Policy

- a. Each assignment due date will have a 48-hour no-late-penalty period where no penalty will be applied to late submissions. No submission will be accepted more than 48 hours after the due date. Please see Section 6 for more details of missed course work.

5.2. Labs

For in-person sections (001 and 002), lab sessions offer an opportunity to work with a course teaching assistant and your fellow students to solve one or more Python problems. They also provide an opportunity to meet with your teaching assistant and ask questions about course content.

For the online section (650), lab sessions are more independent and less interactive. You can generally treat them as mini/practice assignments. If you feel you need some extra guidance, you are still welcome to complete them with classmates, TAs, the Computer Science Help Centre, or through Peer Assisted Learning.

Lab instructions will be available on the course website at the start of each week, and for in-person labs, **you are expected to complete the lab during the lab session you are registered in.** The **tentative** (subject to change) lab schedule is shown below:

Lab	Week
1	Sept. 21st to 25th
2	Sept. 28th to Oct. 2nd ⁴
3	Oct. 5th to 9th
4	Oct. 19th to 23rd
5	Oct. 26th to 30th
6	Nov. 2nd to Nov. 6th
7	Nov. 9th to 13th
8	Nov. 16th to 20th
9	Nov. 23rd to 27th
10	Nov. 30th to Dec. 4th

⁴ Due to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Wednesday Sept. 30th, any lab sections that fall on this date will be canceled and instead an opportunity to submit your lab online will be offered. Details will be provided closer to this date if you are registered in a Wednesday lab section.

The following rules and policies apply to the in-person labs offered in this course (section 001 and 002):

1. The labs begin the week of September 21st and you must attend the lab session you are registered in.
2. To obtain full credit for attending a lab session you must: 1) attend the lab session you are registered in, 2) arrive on time, 3) actively participate and work on the lab problems, 4) allow the teaching assistant running the lab to review your work and record your attendance, and 5) either complete the lab in full or demonstrate to the teaching assistant running the lab that you have made a good effort towards completing the lab. Teaching assistants may ask questions about your work to ensure you have understood the topics covered.
3. Each completed lab is worth 1% of your final grade and your lowest two lab grades will be dropped (making up 8% of your final grade in total). Your first two missed labs (for any reason) will count as a dropped lab grade.

The following rules and policies apply to the online labs offered in this course (section 650):

1. The labs begin the week of September 21st
2. To obtain full credit for a lab session you must: complete in full or demonstrate genuine effort for the lab. Each completed lab is worth 1% of your final grade and your lowest two lab grades will be dropped (making up 8% of your final grade in total). Your first two missed lab (for any reason) will count as a dropped lab grade.

5.3. Weekly Quizzes

Each week, starting on the week of September 14th, a short quiz will be posted to the OWL Brightspace course site by Thursday evening. There will be 11 quizzes in total, and each quiz is worth 1% of your final grade with the two lowest quiz grades being dropped. Each quiz is due on the following Tuesday by 9:30 AM⁵.

You may retake each quiz an unlimited number of times leading up to the due date and the highest quiz grade will be counted.

All weekly quizzes are open book and notes. **Allowed resources during the quiz include textbooks, the official python documentation, lectures, zyBooks, and your own course notes.** Use of generative AI (ChatGPT, Copilot, and others) is not allowed. Quizzes must be done individually and without the aid of others.

5.4. Participation

Your participation grade will be determined by both your **attendance** and **active participation** in the Tuesday and Thursday lecture. It is not enough to simply attend lectures; you must actively participate in the questions and activities. This will be graded as a pass or fail for each lecture.

⁵ There will be no quizzes due or posted on Reading week. For the week before reading week, the quiz will be due the following Tuesday after reading week.

For Section 001 (active learning lectures) to obtain a pass for a lecture, you must:

1. Attend the full lecture **in-person**, arriving on time and not leaving before the end of the lecture.
2. Participate in any active learning activities done during the lecture.
3. Answer at least 50% of the iClicker questions given during the lecture (answers do not have to be correct).

Both the Tuesday and Thursday lectures are counted for participation in section 001.

For Section 002 (flipped classroom) to obtain a pass for a lecture, you must:

1. Watch any assigned videos before class and complete any required pre-class activities.
2. Attend the full Tuesday lecture **in-person**, arriving on time, not leaving before completing any in-class activities, and actively participate in the activities for the day. Completion of the activity will be tracked via submission of the activity on Gradescope and must show a good effort to complete the activity (nonsensical answers, mostly incomplete work, or missing/incorrect participation code will result in failure for that lecture).

Participation will be assessed during the Tuesday lecture for section 002, and the Thursday lecture will be used for taking up the activity.

For Section 650 (online), you must:

1. Watch any assigned videos and complete any required activities
2. Participation will be based on completion of exercises in the zyBooks eTextbook. zyBooks calls these exercises "zyLabs" but are not the same as "Labs" which are detailed in section 5.2 above.

While all zyLabs are recommended, only 80% completion of zyLabs is required to achieve 100% "participation". Therefore, the final participation grade will be proportionally awarded. For example:

zyLabs completion	Participation grade
0%	0%
20%	25%
40%	50%
60%	75%
80% or higher	100%

All zyLabs are due by December 7 at 11:59pm to count toward the participation credit. Late completions until December 9 at 11:59pm will also be accepted. Afterwards, zyLab completions will not count for credit.

Technical Difficulties

For in-person sections (001 and 002), any technical issues with iClicker, Gradescope, or your device must be reported to the instructor **before** you leave the classroom, and you must record your information on the instructor's manual sign in sheet. Failure to do this will result in the lecture being counted as failed.

It is your responsibility to ensure your device and iClicker/Gradescope is working correctly and work with iClicker's, Gradescope's, or Western's IT support teams if they are not.

Academic Integrity for Participation

Any attempt to circumvent the participation system or earn a passing participation grade without attending class is an academic offence and will result in an overall participation grade of zero (for all lectures) and the offence being reported to the Dean's Office. This includes but is not limited to taking any iClicker quizzes or Gradescope activities outside of the classroom, completing an iClicker quiz or Gradescope activity for another student, having another person complete the quiz for you, sharing a participation code with a student outside of the classroom, faking location or attendance records, submitting an activity for another student, or claiming technical difficulties when you simply arrived late.

Participation will not be reweighted to another component (e.g. the final exam) for absences if it was determined that an academic offence occurred in relation to your participation grade.

5.5. Exams

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam, for all sections, will be **in-person** and **tentatively** scheduled for ~~Friday, October 23rd~~ **Sunday, October 25th at 10 AM** and will be **2 hours long**. The midterm exam will cover all course material covered in weeks 1 to 5 (including readings, videos, in-class content, etc.) and will be **closed book**.

Final Exam

The final exam, for all sections, will be scheduled by the University. The exam period is from December 11th to 22nd, 2026 and the exact date, time, and location for our exam will likely be announced in November.

The final exam is **closed book** and is **3 hours in length**.

You must be available during the final exam period. No special (make up) exam will be offered if you are absent due to avoidable travel conflicts.

5.6. Use of Generative AI Tools

Generative AI tools such as (but not limited to) ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, DeepSeek, Codex, Amazon Q Developer, Cursor, Zed, Tabnine, or Grok are **prohibited** and **cannot be used on assignments or tests** (including exams and quizzes) in this course.

Some **labs** and **in-class activities** may permit their use with limitations. If allowed this will be clearly stated in the lab document or activity as well as any limitations. Unless otherwise noted, you should assume their use on labs and in-class activities is prohibited. Ask your instructor if you are unsure.

6. Information About Missed Coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs*, posted on the Academic Calendar: https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage: https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/. All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

6.1 Midterm

This course has one **in-person** midterm exam and an **in-person** cumulative⁶ final exam. There is no makeup test for a missed midterm. If a student misses a midterm, its weight will shift automatically to their final exam grade. If their final exam grade is higher than their midterm grade, their final exam grade will replace the midterm's weight in their overall grade. They do not need to request Academic Consideration for a missed midterm; the reweighing will be done automatically.

The only exception is an early sitting, offered solely for a university-sanctioned schedule conflict (e.g., conflict of two midterms, Varsity competitions) or a religious accommodation that prevents a student from writing the midterm at its scheduled time. If a student requires this accommodation, they must notify their instructor in writing no later than one week before the test. No other circumstance, including illness, qualifies for an early sitting or makeup; these are addressed through the automatic reweighing described above.

⁶ Cumulative in the sense that it covers content from weeks 1 to 12. Due to the written nature of the exam, some essential skills developed through lab work, assignments, and in-class activities cannot be fully assessed. The final exam should not be seen as a replacement for learning outcomes tied to these activities.

6.2 Labs

This course has 10 labs. Students are expected to complete 8 labs to receive full credit for this component. If they miss up to 2 of these, they do not need to request Academic Consideration; the missing item(s) will not count against them, and their grade for this component will be calculated from their best 8 submissions.

The skills assessed in labs are essential to this course. They cannot be assessed through their tests or final exam. If they complete fewer than 5, they will not meet the requirements of the course. See Essential Learning Requirements in section 5 for what happens in that case.

6.3 Weekly Quizzes

This course has 11 weekly quizzes. Students are expected to complete 9 to receive full credit for this component. If they miss up to 2 of these, they do not need to request Academic Consideration; the missing item(s) will not count against them, and their grade for this component will be calculated from their best 9 submissions.

If a student completes fewer than 9 of the total, the missing items will be recorded as a zero and included in their grade for this component. They are encouraged to submit all work, even if incomplete, since a partial mark is always better than a zero. If their final exam grade is higher than their grade on this component, their final exam grade will replace it.

6.4 Assignments

All take-home assignments with a stated due date include an automatic 48-hour period after the deadline during which students may still submit without a late penalty. For example, if an assignment is due on November 5, they may submit it until November 7 without penalty. After this 48-hour period, no further submissions will be accepted, their grade for any missed assignments will be entered as a zero grade after the 48-hour period.

The skills assessed in assignments are essential to this course. They cannot be assessed through their tests or final exam. If they complete fewer than 2, they will not meet the requirements of the course. See Essential Learning Requirements in section 5 for what happens in that case.

6.5 Participation

This course has required participation in lectures.

For section 001, both the Tuesday and Thursday lectures are required in weeks 2 to 12. Students are expected to attend at least 16 of the 22 lectures to receive full credit for this component. Should a lecture be cancelled for all students or unable to run, the instructor will either offer a method to earn credit for the lecture virtually (via an online submission) or the number of required lectures will be reduced.

For section 002, the Tuesday lecture is required in weeks 2 to 12. Students are expected to attend at least 8 of the 11 Tuesday lectures to receive full credit for this component. Should the Tuesday lecture be cancelled for all students or unable to run, the instructor will either offer a method to earn credit for the lecture virtually (via an online submission) or the number of required lectures will be reduced.

For section 650, you must only complete 80% of the exercises to receive full grades. Additionally, you can work on the exercises at any time during the semester. You have access to all exercises (and the knowledge of all exercises that must be completed) from the first day of the course

For sections 001 and 002 (the in-person sections):

The skills assessed in in-class activities are essential to this course. They cannot be assessed through their tests or final exam. If they complete fewer than 40% of the required lectures, they will not meet the requirements of the course. See Essential Learning Requirements above for what happens in that case.

6.6 Special Examination

Per university policy, Academic Consideration requests with supporting documentation are required for the final examinations scheduled during official examination periods by the Registrar's Office.

If the student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination (SPC) and the final exam is their only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned to them and scheduled by the instructor per university policy.

If the student misses their SPC exam and is approved for Academic Consideration, they will be withdrawn from the course without academic penalty. If they experienced extenuating circumstances such as prolonged illness, they may appeal to the Associate Dean (Academic), on a case-by-case basis, for the opportunity to write the final exam the next time the course is offered. An outstanding SPC will reduce their course load for the term in which the exam is deferred, as outlined in the [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#) policy.

If the student misses their SPC exam and Academic Consideration is not approved, or was not requested, they will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

7. Section 001 and 002 Research Notice (optional surveys + non-identifying analytics)

This course is part of a study comparing two formats for teaching CS1026 (active-learning lecture vs. flipped). Participation is optional and unrelated to your grades. You will receive study invitations by email and OWL announcements in Week 3 and again after final grades are submitted and approved. Each anonymous survey takes about 8–12 minutes to complete and all questions are optional. The instructor will only access survey data after final grades are submitted and approved. Full details and Letter Of Information (LOI): https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/CP/File.php?F=F_06aoRWb7lKj6iTc

What we record from the course: only section-level Learning Management System (LMS) statistics that OWL Brightspace already provides (e.g., counts of submissions, means/medians/SDs, grade-distribution counts, “users visited”/average time on relevant video pages), plus anonymous head-counts in lecture

(totals only). No names or student-level identifiers are collected or exported, and no survey responses are linked to LMS data. To protect your anonymity, we won't collect any statistics based on groups small enough to identify someone (smaller than five students).

For any questions regarding this study, please contact Lindsay Bos (cs-studies@uwo.ca). They, or another computer science department staff member, will respond to inquiries where possible and, if a question requires additional information, they will anonymize and forward it to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Daniel Servos, to obtain a response.

8. Additional Statements

8.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday either requires a student to be absent from the University, or requires or prohibits an activity that makes it impossible for them to complete an academic requirement scheduled that day, they are entitled to accommodation. No student will be penalized for an absence for religious reasons, and an alternative means of satisfying the requirement will be arranged. This accommodation is provided in accordance with the University's policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

The student should submit their requests through the Student Absence Portal (SAP), identifying the conflict and the specific course component(s) affected (e.g., test, midterm, exam).

Midterms and Tests: If a religious observance conflicts with a midterm test, they must submit their request no later than **one week** before the test. Their instructor will arrange an early sitting of the test. As set out above, no makeup test is offered for any other reason; this early sitting is available specifically for this accommodation.

Final Examinations: If a religious observance conflicts with the final exam, the student must submit their request no later than **two weeks** before the exam. Their instructor will arrange a Special Examination to take place no later than one month after the end of the examination period.

Students are responsible for finding out what was covered in any class they miss due to a religious observance, and for taking the appropriate steps to keep up with the course.

If a suitable arrangement cannot be reached between a student and their instructor, they should consult the Undergraduate Chair of the department offering the course, and if necessary, the Associate Dean (Academic) of the Faculty of Science.

For a list of recognized religious observances, please visit the calendars posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca> (About Us – Resources – Additional Resources – Calendars).

8.2 Academic Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and

cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

8.3 General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

8.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the **possession** of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, hidden cameras and wireless earbuds.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at a student's desk, on their person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a scholastic offence, **even if the device is not in use**.

Effective September 2026, the typical penalty for this offence is a failing grade in the course AND a 12-month prohibition on retaking the course.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is their responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

Use of Software for Assessments

All submissions made through Gradescope (including assignments, labs, and in-class activities) may be subject to textual, code, and metadata similarity review using Gradescope's built-in similarity checking features. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Gradescope (<https://www.gradescope.ca>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

8.5 Support Services

Academic Advising. Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/advising/>.

Mental Health Support. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence. Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If a student has experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), they can find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessibility for Coursework. A student may contact the course instructor if they require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to them. If they have any questions regarding accommodations, they may also contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning Development and Success. Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and

Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help students improve their learning skills. The facility offers strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Student Councils.

Student-run support services are offered by the University Students' Council (<https://westernusc.ca>) and the Science Students' Council (<https://www.westernssc.ca>).