

Guidelines for regular lab sessions (CSC 226, Summer 2026)

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First, to avoid any possible confusion, please note that this guidelines document is about the “regular lab sessions”. These guidelines do not apply to the “special lab sessions”.¹

What is high-level idea of a regular lab session? In a regular lab session, you will work together with one or two other students (or alone if you really want to) to solve a problem or a few problems. You should make a best effort. Every student will submit their own, handwritten solution. Solutions will not be graded, but the TA will only award participation marks if they see that a reasonable attempt has been made.

Am I required to attend labs? Yes, attendance is required. Attending the regular lab sessions is considered participation marks and is worth 6% of your course grade. We will excuse one absence without affecting your participation marks.

How can I prepare for the lab? At least one day before the lab session, an instructional document will be posted. You are strongly encouraged to review this document before the lab. Reviewing this document will better prepare you for the problems to be solved. These problems will be shown to you during your lab session.

What should I bring to the lab? Please bring a few sheets of paper and a pen or pencil. The lab instructor will have a few extra pens and some extra paper, but they won’t have enough pens and paper for everyone.

Can I work on problems in a group? Yes, and in fact, we encourage you to work on problems with either one or two other students. If you wish, you can work alone. You can decide who you work with. If you need help forming a group, just ask the lab instructor.

What resources can I use during the lab? You can use your course notes and textbooks. You cannot use LLMs (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) or online sources.

What if I get stuck? You are welcome to ask the TA for hints to help get un-stuck. We really do want you to have a chance to make progress on the problems.

What do I submit? You need to submit your own, handwritten solution (even if you work in a group). You get full credit if the TA thinks you genuinely exerted some effort. There is no partial credit.

Can I leave early if I think I finished solving the problems before the end of the lab? If you wish to submit your solution and leave early, the lab instructor may ask you to explain your solution. If the lab instructor believes that you did a good job, then they may allow you to leave early.

¹In special lab sessions, group work is not allowed, no external resources are allowed, and your work will be graded.