

# COS126 Programming Assignment Guidelines

All programming assignments need

1. Name, login, precept and program info (description and dependencies) in header of every file submitted.
2. Commented code, descriptive variable names, spacing for readability.
3. `readme.txt` completely filled out for that particular assignment in plain text format.
4. **EXACTLY CORRECT FILE NAMES** - watch upper and lower case!!!
5. To be submitted in a timely fashion. They are due at the posted times.
6. To be your **OWN** work. **DO NOT LOOK** at anyone else's code for **ANY** reason.
7. To be protected. Make sure your computer is password protected.

Getting started

1. Read **BOTH** the **ASSIGNMENT** and the **CHECKLIST** carefully.  
If you have some programming experience and want to give yourself more of a challenge, then make your first pass at the assignment before you read the Checklist. However, you should always read the Checklist before submitting your final version of the assignment.
2. Make a new folder or directory for each assignment.
3. Write an outline or pseudo-code first on paper. Use these as comments.
4. Work in small steps - compile and run to **CHECK AS YOU GO!!!**
5. Debug carefully. Test with different inputs, not just the sample ones provided.

Most importantly

- Read the assignment before the first precept each week. Do preliminary coding before the second precept.
- **START EARLY.** If you feel lost, **COME FOR HELP.**
- Programming improves with practice. The Precepts webpage lists recommended exercises - Do them!
- When we explain assignments in precept, it is often rushed. Office hours are (usually) more relaxed and we can go through the steps in detail.
- You may attend any preceptor's office hours.
- Use Piazza for general questions. Make code-specific questions private. When asking for debugging help, list what you have tried so far.
- There are undergraduate lab TA's available Sunday through Friday evenings plus Saturday afternoons. The schedule is on the course website.
- Collaboration Policy bottom line: **YOU MAY NOT SHOW YOUR CODE TO ANYBODY TAKING COS126 NOW or IN THE FUTURE.**

We're off and running!