

HOW TO STUDY CITS1001

CITS1001

Semester 1 2017

6 minutes for the 3 most important things you
need to know

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1. How learning works (and doesn't)
2. Rights and responsibilities
what UWA expects, what UWA offers
3. Learning strategies

1a. How Learning Works

- Learning is a **process** that involves not only your skills, knowledge and abilities, but also your social and emotional experiences
- **Motivation** is a critical factor that determines, directs and sustains what you learn
- The quality of learning is enhanced by goal-based **practice** and **targeted feedback**
- Ability to **reflect on and adapt** their **learning strategies** also impacts your learning success
- **Prior knowledge** and how you organise knowledge can either support or hinder your learning

1b. How learning DOESN'T work

IN: information
delivered in
lectures and labs



OUT: same info
in the exam

1c. Learning Programming is Emotional (!)

“Learning how to program was my favourite unit ... It is incredibly satisfying when your program works.”

“I felt accomplished and happy [because] on top of finishing mine, I helped two other friends and a random person...”

“Okay, this should work. Compile. And then the compiler says “no” and we’re like, Oh no, not again. Not this. Oh, come on. It’s not doing this to us again, is it? Oh man. Give us a break here.”

ALL students encounter problems when learning to program. The thriving student has a positive perception of their ability to deal with problems, and effective strategies for overcoming problems when they are encountered.

2a. Student Rights and Responsibilities

- Every student has the **right** to
 - study in a supportive and encouraging environment;
 - expect the University to provide a high quality of education including a high quality of teaching, supervision, curriculum and unit content, a commitment to inclusivity, and good access to staff;
 - assessment that is valid, educative, explicit, reliable and fair;
- Every student has the **responsibility** to
 - act at all times in a way that respects the rights and privileges of others;
 - bring an open and enquiring mind and enthusiasm to their studies;
 - participate actively in the teaching and learning and research environment, in particular by attending classes as required, complying with workload expectations, and submitting required work on time;

UWA Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities

www.aps.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/charter (UP07/132)

2b. Lecturer Responsibilities

- Respect for the discipline of Computer Science
 - Learning the principles and practice of object-oriented programming is a demanding and worthwhile intellectual task.
- Respect for the profession of teaching
 - Responsible for facilitating learning for every student.
- Respect for every student as an individual as they learn

3a. Learning Strategies

- To pass CITS1001 (and to do well at UWA generally), you need to **take responsibility for your own learning**
 - *attend* lectures regularly, preferably in person or at least via LMS
 - *ask* questions on *help1001*, in labs, in workshops: whenever you get stuck
 - *use* the facilities provided by Student Services on study techniques, time-management, goal-setting, etc.
 - *be aware* of managing your time early in the semester: you need to spend about **10 hours/week** over the entire semester on CITS1001
 - *install* Java and BlueJ on your personal computer early in semester
 - *practice, practice, practice*: programming is (at least partly) an art, and you need to practice it to become proficient

3b. In the unlikely event of an emergency...

- If you are struggling, the most important thing is to recognize it and to respond **early**: letting it slide is always a mistake
 - make sure you use all the help that is available
- Be realistic about your strengths, interests, and motivation
 - almost everyone who fails Java programming does so not because of lack of ability, but because of lack of interest
 - the most common way to fail is to fall behind, start missing lectures and lab sessions, and then try to cram at the last moment
 - withdrawing is better than failing!

Failing a unit is expensive, permanently mars your academic record, and is almost always avoidable!