

CMSC201

Computer Science I for Majors

Midterm Information

Exam Rules

- The midterm is closed everything:
 - No books
 - No notes
 - No cheat sheets
 - No laptops
 - No calculators
 - No phones

Exam Rules

- Place your bag under your desk/chair
 - NOT on the seat next to you
- You may have on your desk:
 - Pencils, erasers
 - You **must** use a pencil, not a pen
 - Water bottle
 - **UMBC ID**
 - You **must** bring your UMBC ID with you to the exam!
We won't accept your test without it.

Exam Rules

- Your TA or instructor may ask you to move at any time during the test
 - This doesn't mean we think you're cheating
- That being said, **DO NOT CHEAT!!!**
- Cheating will be dealt with severely and immediately
 - There will be no retakes or partial credits

Exam Seating

- Space allowing, you will sit every other seat, so that you are not next to another student
- Your instructor may have specific instructions for their lecture hall seating arrangements
- Your exam will happen in your regular classroom – arrive early if possible!

Exam Format

Exam Format

- Questions will be similar to those on the review worksheet
- Exam questions are less “tricky” than the worksheet, but the types of questions are generally the same
 - You have more time and resources available to you when working on the worksheet, so the questions are meant to be more challenging

Exam Format

- Multiple Choice
- True/False
- Code evaluation
 - Given a few lines of code, what does it do?
- Debugging
 - Find and fix errors in 10-20 lines of code

Exam Format

- Programming problems
 - Given a problem, write code to solve it
- Tips for programming problems:
 - Don't jump straight into coding
 - Read the question carefully
 - Note the specific requirements and restrictions
 - Plan out what your code needs to do

Exam Content

Exam Content

- Everything we've covered so far!
- You should be especially familiar with:
 - Evaluating expressions
 - Control structures
 - While loops
 - Including sentinel loops
 - If/Elif/Else
 - Debugging

Exam Content

- You should be especially familiar with:
 - Strings
 - Indexing, slicing, concatenating
 - Built-in functions (split, join, strip, upper, lower)
 - Lists
 - Indexing, slicing, traversing, appending
 - Functions
 - Formal parameters and arguments
 - Defining and calling functions

Exam Content

- We haven't used these topics on a homework yet, but they will likely be on the exam
- Functions
 - Returning from functions
- Lists
 - Two-dimensional lists
 - Creating, traversing, indexing

Exam Advice

Exam Advice

- When you first get the exam...
- Write down your name
 - Make sure your name is **legible** and on the line
- Circle your discussion section
- Read the Academic Integrity agreement
 - Sign your name underneath

Exam Advice

- When the exam starts...
- Flip through the exam and get a feel for the length of it and the types of questions
 - The programming problems are the last questions on the exam – don't leave them until the last minute!

Exam Advice

- Most questions have partial credit
 - You should at least attempt every problem
 - If you don't know how to do one part of a problem, skip it and do the rest
 - You can use comments instead of code (like “**# get user input**”) if you know what you want a piece of code to do but not how to do it

Exam Advice

- After you are done coding the programming problems, try “running” your program with some input and making sure it works the way you think it does
 - Trace (on paper or in your head) what the code is doing and what paths it is taking (loops, decisions)
- If a problem is unclear or you think there is an error on the exam, raise your hand

Advice and Other Info

Review Worksheet Answers

- Answers to the worksheet will not be provided
- Work with other students on the review sheet!
- TAs will be available in ITE 240 during their discussion hours the week of the exam
 - They won't just give you the answers, though
- You'll understand and retain the information better if you solve the problems yourself

Advice on How to Study

- Just looking over the slides won't be enough!
 - Try some of the live-coding exercises and practice examples available in the slides
 - Redo old labs or homeworks (*without looking at them first!*)
- Form study groups with other students
 - Create and trade possible exam questions
- Do the entire review sheet (especially the hard parts!)
 - Check your answers are correct by using Python, checking the notes, or talking to other students

Out-Of-Class Reviews

- Reviews will be held outside of class by the TAs on March 12th and 13th
 - Exact times and locations will be put up on the course website once decided
- The TAs will only bring their brains and a whiteboard marker, so come prepared with questions to answer and problems to solve