

CSSS Survival Guide



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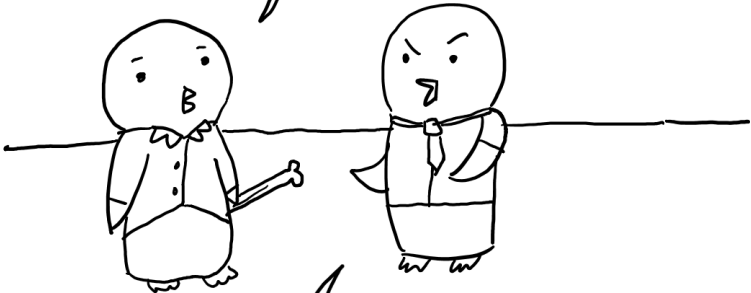
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The CSSS

When does the ritual start?



We were joking! Where'd you even find a femur?

Introduction

Welcome to the Frosh Survival Guide for 2017-2018. This guide is designed to help first year Computing Science students become familiar with Simon Fraser University, the School of Computing Science, and the Computing Science Student Society (CSSS). This guide is written by the students in the CSSS.

We also welcome you to Frosh Week 2017. Frosh Week is an annual event that allows new students to get a good feeling of university life and meet with a wide range of students in their department.

Throughout the week, go to all your lectures, introduce yourself to everyone, ask questions about university, and have fun. It is important to make connections and friendships early, as many of you will be here for years to come.

What Is The CSSS

CSSS stands for Computing Science Student Society. We are a group of students that have banded together for one purpose: to meet people, make friends, and advance our studies towards a fun and fulfilling degree in Computing Science.

The CSSS is a departmental student union, or DSU. This means that we are the main student group that communicates with bigger entities, such as the School of Computing Science and the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS). As a DSU, we also get to sit on in committees and forums that decide things like curriculum and regulations. In short, the CSSS is responsible for making the opinions of CS students heard in university decisions. However, the CSSS does much more than just that. Among other things, we run a common room for CS students and hold social events throughout the semester. Everybody is included, as any student in Computing Science is automatically a member of the CSSS.

CSSS Executives

President

The President is in charge of everything that has not been specifically delegated to the executives. The President is the chief busybody of the CSSS. The President also serves as the liaison between the CSSS and the outside world such as the CS department, the SFSS, other DSU's, etc. This is an annual position.

Vice President

The Vice President (VP) has the position of assisting the President. The VP and President work together to handle the presidential duties and help the society run smoothly. All general meetings are chaired by the VP. This is an annual position.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for handling the CSSS cash-flow. Money comes in, events come out, and the Treasurer is responsible for making sure we never declare bankruptcy. This is an annual position.

Director of Events

The Director of Events (DOE) is the heart and soul of the CSSS, managing all social events for the Society. The DOE manages the events, hackathons, panel sessions, networking nights, LAN-parties, games-nights, and every other social gathering that might occur. This is an annual position.

Director of Resources

The Director of Resources (DOR) manages all resources owned by the Society. They keep the pop machine, exam-database and common rooms in order. This is an annual position.

Director of Archives

The Director of Archives manages all information for the society, including meeting minutes, calling general and special meetings, handling CSSS mailing lists, sorting, filing, and collating. Especially collating. This is an annual position.

Director of Communications

The Director of Communications handles all internal and external emails, sponsorship requests, CSSS newsletter, and alumni relations. This is an annual position.

Executive at Large

The Executive at Large handles the day to day operations of the Society, such as filling up the pop machine and running around in circles. They are available for helping other executives with their assorted duties. There are two positions. This is a semesterly position.

First Year Representatives

The First Year Representatives ensure that issues and views pertaining to members in their first year of post-secondary education are represented in the executive and Society in general. It is their responsibility to hold at least two events. There are two positions. The position lasts for two semesters, starting in the fall.

Council Representative

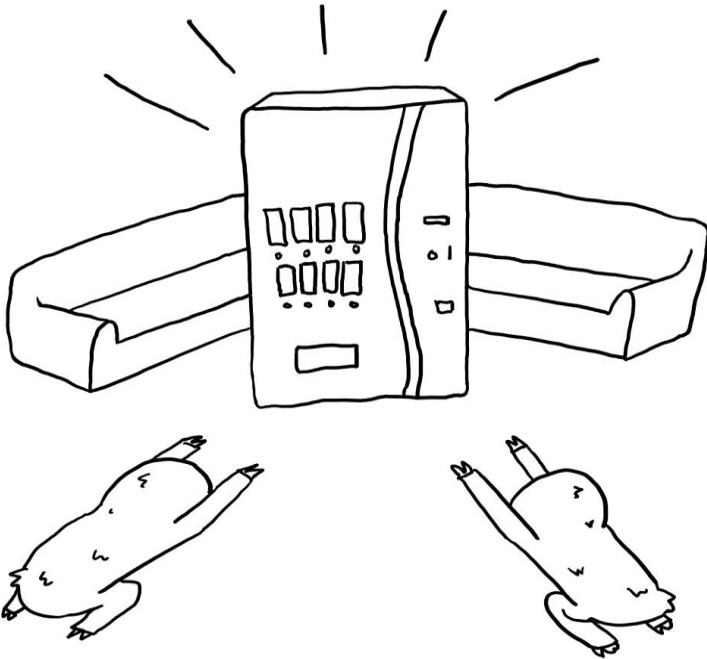
The Council Representative goes to council and acts as the voice of the CSSS, representing their constituents by voting and putting forth motions. They report back to the CSSS about how things went. This is a generally a yearly position.

System Administrator

The System Administrator is responsible for managing the CSSS server. The CSSS maintains a private server for its website and services, and the SysAdmin keeps everything in working order - the website, the repository, and anything else on the server. The position of SysAdmin is not elected – it is earned.

CSSS Common Room

Located in ASB 9802, the CSSS Common room provides a place for students to socialize and study. \$1 pop, 75-cent mystery column and power outlets throughout the room to plug in your laptop. There is also a whiteboard and a table in the back of the room which can be used for planning group projects or hosting study sessions.



The common room is a great place to socialize and seek for help in terms of coding and course/ professor selecting.

CSSS Website

The CSSS website can be found at sfucsss.org. The website contains information about our constitution, the Common Room, mailing lists, contact information, and more. There is also an archive for all the meeting minutes in case you missed a meeting. We also have links to our various social groups, so you can connect with us and find out what is happening within the CSSS.

Exam Bank

It is about that time of the semester when you have to study for exams. You have completed all the sample questions and exam papers given to you by your professor, but you still have the feeling that you are not prepared for the exam. Why not come to the Computing Science Common Room and ask an executive member to look at our exam bank? We hold a large collection of past exams that may help you study for your midterms and finals.

Have you finished your exam and got a really decent score? You can help out others by trading in your exam for a free can of pop. Talk to any CSSS executive to trade your exam in.

Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries

There are numerous scholarships, awards, and bursaries both administered by SFU and by external groups. Below is a small list that you might qualify for during your time here at SFU. Also, don't be turned away by the stipulation for high academic standing. Apply anyways, the worst they will say is no.

Olga and Richard Murray Bursary in Applied Sciences

Awarded in the summer and fall terms, this bursary is granted to graduate or undergraduate students in the Faculty of Applied Sciences on the basis of demonstrated financial need and satisfactory academic performance. If possible, preference will be given to a student, or the spouse or child of a person, who is a member of the Telecommunication Workers Union or of Van-Tel Credit Union.

IODE Burnaby Municipal Chapter Bursary

Awarded all three terms to third or fourth year students majoring in science or applied sciences. Students must be Canadian citizens and graduates of Burnaby Senior Secondary School. Financial need and satisfactory academic standing is required.

Simba Technologies Inc. Scholarships in Computing Science

Two scholarships at a minimum of \$2,000 each will be awarded in any term, preferably one in Fall term and one in Spring term, to an undergraduate female student majoring in Computing Science on the basis of full-time enrollment and excellent academic standing. Preference will be given to female students with demonstrated

community/volunteer service. Applications should include a CV outlining the candidate's community/volunteer activities. The awards will be made by the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee upon the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

Scotiabank Student Scholarship in the Faculty of Applied Sciences

This \$2500 award will be granted annually in the summer term to a Faculty of Applied Sciences student with at least 90 units who exemplifies the aspects of a well-rounded student scholar: academic excellence, and community involvement. Academic excellence is based on academic merit as determined by cumulative grade point average (CGPA). Community involvement may be service to the University community or the community at large. The award will be made by the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee.

Elma Krbavac Undergraduate Scholarship in Computing Science

An annual scholarship in any term to an undergraduate student in Computing Science based on high academic standing and demonstrated volunteer involvement. Candidates should demonstrate their involvement in volunteer activities by providing such details in a resume and cover letter with their application. The award will be made by the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee. Value of the scholarship is \$3000.

Matthew LeDuc Memorial Scholarship in Computing Science

Awarded annually on the basis of academic achievement to a Computing Science major, with demonstrated excellence in the field of

computer graphics. The award will be made by the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee. Value of the scholarship is \$600.

Joe and Mary Merchant Scholarship in Science

An annual scholarship, based on scholastic merit, will be awarded in any term to a full-time third or fourth year undergraduate student in the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The award will be made by the Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee. Value of the scholarship is \$1100.

CSSS Award

In need of financial aid? Don't know where to look? Why not apply for the CSSS Award? This award recognizes a CSSS member's contributions to the Society and its activities. It's our way of noticing who's been working hard to keep the CSSS as awesome as it can be. The award is available once in the fall and once in the spring semesters.

Service Awards

Applications are only open from March-April for each year. This award recognises service to the University and/or community at large. Basically if you volunteer on or off campus, you qualify for this award.

Applying

Not all awards have the same application process. It's best to set up an appointment with financial aid and/or FAS advisors to see what is required and when to apply by.

Mailing Lists

Mailing lists are intended to be used in support of scholarly or work-related activity, in accordance with University policy GP-24. You can create your own mailing lists for different purposes, such as managing a group project in a course by visiting <http://maillist.sfu.ca>.

Important lists include:

cmpt-majors: All Computing Science majors are included on this list. E-mails are mainly from advisors and the CS office staff.

cmpt-all: A list that CSILOP maintains. It is used to send information regarding the labs, including lab closures.

cmpt-students: A list utilized by the CSSS to let students know about general meetings and other Society related information.

csss: The main email for the Computing Science Student Society.

csss-announce: This is a voluntary sign up list. If you want to know more about CSSS events, sign up via <http://maillist.sfu.ca>.

csss-exec: This is a contact list for the CSSS executives.

CSSS Social Groups

Facebook: [Computing Science Student Society \(CSSS \) @ SFU](#)

Twitter: [@sfucss](#)

Other Societies



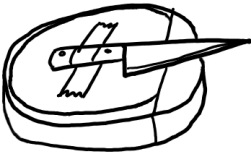
CSSS Femur



ESSS Beer
Stein



SFSS Empty
Wallet



MSESS Roomba
with a knife



SSSS Snake-Skin
Boot

SFSS

All SFU undergraduate students are members of the Simon Fraser Student Society. The SFSS has represented SFU students for over 40 years as a registered not-for-profit organization.



The SFSS's goal is to unite student voices, lobby the University and Governments on student issues, and provide valuable services to all members.

The SFSS has many services available to students. If you are in need of a conference room for a school event or group, the SFSS has various rooms available. Do you have an event or group you wish to advertise? You can post your ad on various SFSS poster boards around campus, or for a more direct advertising approach, consider booking a vendor table in the Academic Quadrangle.

The SFSS also runs a free legal clinic in case you are in need of any legal aid. There is also the SFU Nightline crisis-line (604.857.7148) which is available to call 24/7 in case you need someone to talk to. The SFSS also has a full-blown copy centre for those times when you need something special printed.

As well as the regular services offered above, the SFSS often hosts events such as Clubs Days and the SFU Week of Welcome.

To find out more about what the SFSS is and the services that they offer, visit the SFSS website at: <http://www.sfss.ca>

WiCS

WiCS has evolved into an organization actively involved in promoting events with many opportunities to learn, network, and have fun! *Membership and events*



WICS @ SFU
Women in Computing Science

are free and open to people of all genders who are willing to help WiCS achieve the following goals:

- **PROMOTE** women in Computing Science
- **SUPPORT** women throughout their study of CS
- **BUILD** a strong network of friendly faces for women in CS
- **CHALLENGE** the biases and myths faced by women in CS

How to Join

To become a part of our organization, simply join our emailing list. For SFU students, alumni and faculty:

1. Go to SFU Maillist <http://maillist.sfu.ca/>
2. Enter your Computing/Webmail/Unix ID and password
3. Search for the wics-members@sfu.ca mail list
4. Click the “Subscribe” button

If you don't have an SFU ID, please email wics@sfu.ca to be added to our mailing list.

WiCS is always looking forward to your comments, suggestions, or questions, which can be sent to: wics@sfu.ca.

How to Reach Us

Web Site: <http://www.sfu.ca/computing/wics.html>

E-mail: wics@sfu.ca

Facebook: [WICS @ SFU \(Women in Computing Science @ SFU\)](#)

Background

WiCS@SFU was established in early 2002 as a mailing list for individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds: undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and external members (ex. high school teachers, parents, industry professionals).

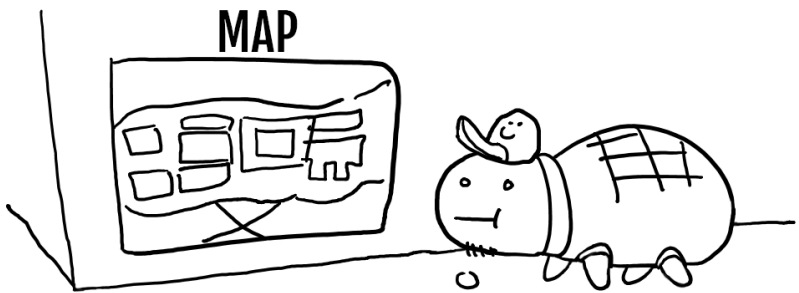
WiCS established a formal constitution in mid-2003 and elected an Executive Team. There are regular weekly meetings during the semester and WiCS organizes various events on campus, the majority of which are open to people of any gender. Here are a few of our events and programs:

- **Mentorship Program:** - Female froshes are welcome to join the WiCS mentorship program, where you will be placed in a group of other new students and 1-2 experienced student mentors. It's a great way to meet your peers and get advice. Sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/WTTEYIZ8BQ4Fm2bT2>
- **CodeMavens: Weekly Technical Interview Workshops** - All are welcome to come practise for technical interviews by solving coding problem, doing mock interviews, and implementing solutions on whiteboards. A lack of experience is not an excuse to avoid CodeMavens, but a reason to attend!
- **Career Networking Events** - Meet professionals in the tech industry, listen to their experiences in their careers, learn something through a tech talk, build your network of contacts for internship and job opportunities, and improve your networking skills.
- **Faculty Mentor Lunch** - A group of women enjoy a free dine out on campus with an experienced female researcher to discuss and learn about research opportunities and career goals.
- **Social Events** - Enjoy tea and cookies, hiking, picnicking, or other activities with a mix of awesome people. You don't have to be a WiCS member to attend; we love to see new faces!

WiCS members actively help facilitate School of Computing Science events, such as orientations for new students or outreach programs for high school students. In addition, WiCS also carries out joint events with other groups at SFU, including the Computing Science Student Society (CSSS) and Women in Engineering (WiE).

For more information, visit <http://www.sfu.ca/computing/wics.html>

Getting Around



I know where I have
to be next week.

Room and Floor Numbering

Room numbers consist of two parts - a code, followed by a four or five-digit number. Let's use the Computing Science Common Room as an example: ASB 9802.

The first code tells you which building the room is located in. In this case, ASB is the Applied Sciences Building. Other buildings have their own codes and most of them are intuitive. Each building's code can be seen on the next few pages.

The number tells you the floor and the relative location of the room on that floor. The floor number is always the first one or two digits while the relative location is the last three digits. For example the Common Room is on the 9th floor with a relative location of 802. The relative locations allow you to find rooms based on others you already know. The CSIL Windows Lab is in ASB 9804, which has a relative location of 804. Therefore the CSIL Windows Lab should be near the Common Room, which it is.

Floor numbering can be quite confusing. Throughout most of the school, you will have floor numbers from one to six, but when you get into the sciences wings (Shrum Science Center's Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Kinesiology wings) and the Applied Sciences Building, you will notice that their floors start at seven and go up to ten. All you need to remember is that the 9th floor in these wings are on the same floor as the 3rd floor in the AQ.

In sum, 1.) Find the correct building, 2.) Find the correct floor, 3.) Find the correct room.

To find a room easier, consider downloading the SFU Snap App which can be found on both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store

Applied Sciences Building (ASB)

Level	What you will find
8	Engineering Labs
9	The CSIL (Computing Science Instructional Lab) The CSSS Common Room School of Computing Science Office CS Advising Office Co-op Office Faculty of Applied Sciences Dean Office Connection to TASC 1
10	IRMACS Conference Rooms and Offices Engineering Science Labs and Common Room

Robert C. Brown Hall (RCB)

Level	What you will Find
B2	Tutorial Rooms
B1	Psychology Offices and Common Room Psychology Microcomputer Laboratory Tutorial Rooms
1	Geography Offices and Common Room Tutorial Rooms
2	Geography Offices Tutorial Rooms
3	Images Theatre Language Offices

	Connection to Academic Quadrangle
4	Linguistics Offices

Shrum Science Centre

Building	What You Will Find
Biology	Lecture Halls, Biology Labs, Offices, and Seminar Rooms Study Areas and Lounges Biology General Office
Chemistry	Lecture Halls, Chemistry Labs, and Offices
Kinesiology	Math Student Union Common Room Labs, Tutorial Rooms and Conference Rooms Communication General Offices and Common Room
Mathematics	Mathematics General Office
Physics	Physics Labs, Common Rooms and General Offices

Blusson Hall

Level	What you will find
9	Chemistry Computing Lab Lecture Halls, Tutorial Rooms and Offices
10	Labs, Classrooms, Tutorial Rooms, and Offices Health Science Department Connection to Saywell Hall
11	Labs, Tutorial Rooms, and Offices Health Science General Office/Dean's Office Study Areas

Saywell Hall

Level	What you will find
8	Museum of Archeology and Ethnology First Nations Studies Lounge and Offices Forensics and Archeology Labs Center for Forensics Research Sexual Offender Research Lab Clinical Psychology Center Connection to Academic Quadrangle
9	Lecture Halls Criminology Wing Study Area Criminology General Office Offices Path to Strand Hall Connection to Blusson Hall

Technology and Science Complex 1

Level	What You Will Find
7	Department of Earth Sciences Office Offices, Study Areas, and Labs Bus Stop on South Campus Road
8	CS Grad Common Room Offices and Study Areas Server Room Faculty of Environment Office and Common Room
9	Board Rooms, Offices, and Study Areas Upper Division Labs

Technology and Science Complex 2

Level	What You Will Find
6	4D Labs (Nano-Fabrication and Nano-Imaging) Bus Stop on South Campus Road
7	Study Area, Meeting Rooms, Labs, and Shower 4D Labs (Nano-Fabrication and Nano-Imaging) Bus Stop on South Campus Road
8	Seminar Rooms, Labs, and Meeting Room Server Room Faculty of Environment Dean's Office Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology Dean's Office
9	Department of Chemistry Stairs to Roof Connection to SSC Physics

Maggie Benston Center

Level	What you will find
1	Career and Health and Counselling Services Archives and SFU Document Solutions Work Integrated Learning
2	SFU Bookstore Entrance and U-Pass BC Machines Dean of Graduate Studies Office SFU International Student Services First Nations Student Center Center for Student with Disabilities
3	SFU Bookstore Returns (and entrance when busy) Minimart Food Court: Guadalupe, Gawon, Bubble World, Noodle & Bubble

Waffle, Pasta Polo
 Graduate Student Society
 Simon Fraser Student Society Offices and Copy Center

4 Student Central and Student Services

W.A.C. Bennett Library

Level What You Will Find

1 Lam Collection

2 Curriculum Collection and Statistics Canada
 Group Study Area and Study Rooms and Thesis Defence Room
 Reference and Science Indexes

3 Ask Us and Check Out/Circulation Desk
 Document Delivery Services (Interlibrary Loans)
 Reserves and Media Resource Centre
 Reference Collection and Service
 Student Learning and Information Commons

4 Books A - HT and Oversize books

5 Books HV - QA and File Arts Files

6 Books QB - Z
 Bound and Current Journals, Microforms, and Newspapers

7 Library Committee Rooms, Special Collections and Rare books
 Maps and Graphical Information System (GIS)
 Library Processing and Theses and Library Management Offices

West Mall Centre

Level	What You Will Find
1	Centre for Online and Distance Education Study Area Department of Economics and Department of French
2	Faculty of Business Administration Lecture Halls, Tutorial Rooms, and Offices Human Resources Simulation Lab IT Services Tim Hortons and ATM Mac/PC Lab Department of Economics and Department of French
3	Faculty of Business Administration General Office Department of Economics General Office Lecture Halls, Tutorial Rooms, and Study Area Access to the Rotunda
4	Department of Philosophy and Department of Economics Faculty of Business Administration
5	Department of Philosophy Faculty of Business Administration

Lorne Davies Complex

Level	What You Will Find
1	Strength and Conditioning Facilities and Offices
2	Pool and Fitness Centre
3	Offices
4	Gymnasiums

5 & 6	Observatories
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Strand Hall

Level	What You'll Find
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G	Loading Bay
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1	IT Services and Offices Path to Blusson Hall
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2	Human Resources Campus 3D Model
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3	Klaus Rieckhoff Hall President's Office Board of Governors Office Vice President of Research Office Vice President of Academics & Provost Offices Admin Offices
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Cornerstone

Restaurant / Store	Notes
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Bamboo Garden	Decent Chinese food for cheap! Usually open late.
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Spicy Stone	Cheap and fast Korean food. Check the specials every day for additional savings!
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Pizza Hut	Some of the deals are ok, but the pizza is quite greasy (for those that like that)
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Donair Town	Grab a Chicken Platter or Beef Donair if you are in the mood. Prices are reasonable.
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Noodle House	Not a very popular restaurant, but the prices
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	are decent. Sometimes the food can be a hit or miss.
Pearl Fever	Great bubble tea, but the food could be a bit better.
Subway	Pretty self-explanatory here. Keep track of their \$5 foot long promotions to save some money.
Quesada	Mexican food. Burritos (and burrito bowls), tacos, quesadillas, tortilla salads, and so much more. Remember to ask for their loyalty card
Poké Bar	a raw salmon (or various shellfish) salad served with the common "poke" seasonings.
Starbucks	It's Starbucks.
Ichibankan Express	The sushi isn't amazing, but bentos and rice bowls can be pretty filling. The price could be lower.
Nature's Garden	An organic deli. Great food but the price is a little bit higher. However, they have gelatos and \$1 Coffee! Bring your own cup for a discount!
Club Ilia	Open 7-days a week, happy hour from 3-5pm and 9-11pm. Brunch on the weekends. Wings Wednesdays. Popular with the SFU community.
Nester's Market	Typical supermarket, with a deli and pharmacy. Prices might be a little higher than expected, but there are still deals to be had.
Miniso	A super cute Chinese-Japanese dollar-/drug-store.

UniverCity

Restaurant / Store	Notes
A&W	Featuring all day breakfast.
Uncle Fatih's Pizza	Vancouverite pizza. Get a slice or order a whole pizza. They stay open late.
Togo Sushi	SFU's only dining establishment dedicated to sushi.
The Chopped Leaf	An actual healthy option on campus!

Academic Quadrangle

Restaurant / Store	Notes
Renaissance Coffee	A long time member of our campus community and a great source for Fair Trade coffee. They have food too: the AQ location has a great soup and sandwich deal!

Surrey



SFU Surrey is located above Surrey Central Shopping Center. The campus is not as bad as people tend to think. With smaller class sizes, lots of student study space and nearby shopping mall and pub, Surrey Campus has everything you need. It's also nice and new, with great architectural features!

Vancouver

SFU Vancouver is the downtown campus of SFU and consists of four buildings. Harbour Centre, Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, SFU's Segal Graduate School of Business, and Goldcorp Centre for the Arts (also known as Woodwards). If you are taking courses in Vancouver, they will most likely be found at Harbour Centre. It may not be as large as the other campuses, but Harbour Centre is in the heart of downtown Vancouver, minutes away from anything you need. Some computing science courses at Burnaby may not fit your schedule, so be prepared to take one or two courses at Harbour Centre.



External Resources

Free Online Courses

There are a few websites that serve as education platforms, offering courses online for anyone to take, for free. These courses are from other universities and organizations and provide resources (video lectures, course notes, practice questions etc) which may help you understand your course material in school better. You don't have to actually complete these courses or follow them through. You can enrol in a course that might be similar to a course you are taking in SFU and use it as a resource.

MIT OCW, Coursera, Udacity, edX are a few websites that provide online courses.

Lynda.com

Lynda has a wide range of video tutorials on programming, design, business, and other interesting topics. SFU provides Lynda.com account so it is free for all SFU students. Search the library website for Lynda and it will lead you to a page that lets you register an account.

Khan Academy

Has good tutorials for math, english and most electives you may take. For those that like video tutorials, we strongly suggest previewing the material for your math classes during the semester breaks. You can easily cover two to three weeks of content in five-six hours.

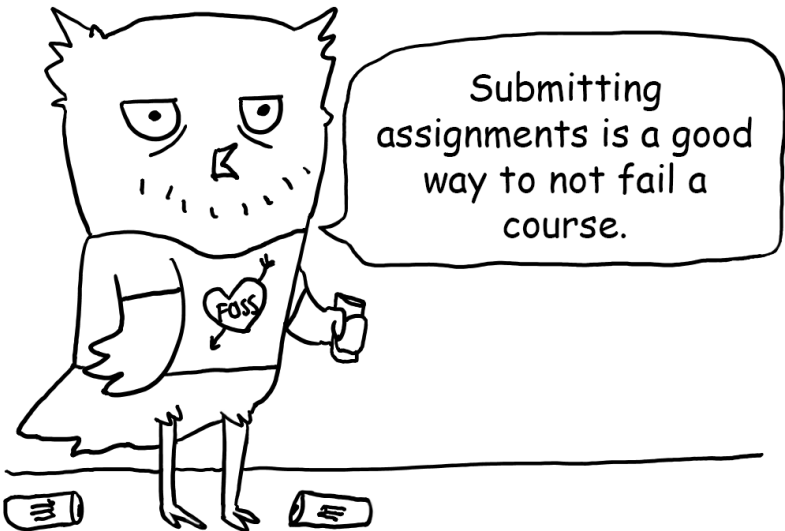
Free Books

SFU library has a vast collection of textbooks besides your course textbooks. Often you may find your course textbook hard to understand (ahem, Grimaldi). A quick Google search will tell you what are the best (or at least better) textbooks related to your course. Chances are that book is available in the library and up for grabs for the whole semester. Get the textbook, and you will probably be better off.

stackoverflow.com

These are forums where people exchange programming problems and advice. It's a good place to check when trying to debug your code. You may find sample code there as well, do not copy the code unless your professor says you may use code from other users. SFU is very strict about their honesty policy and plagiarism is not taken lightly.

General Advice



Computer Science Instructional Lab (CSIL)

CSIL (pronounced C-SIL) is the main computing lab you will use at Burnaby while taking computing science courses. CSIL consists of four connected computer labs, TA offices and assignment drop boxes. Most of the computers dual boot both Linux (Ubuntu Precise Pangolin 12.04) and Windows (Windows 7). CSIL is usually a great place to study and complete homework, as it is fairly quiet and only for computing science students.

To get inside, you will need an access card. To get an access card, visit the SFU Card Access Office at Discovery 1.

You can also remote desktop into CSIL using `rdc://leto.csil.sfu.ca`. For more details on how to connect to Windows and Linux remotely and other CSIL queries visit:

<http://www.sfu.ca/computing/about/support/csil/unix/how-to-use-csil-linux-cpu-server.html>

<http://www.sfu.ca/computing/about/support/csil/windows/how-to-use-windows-terminal-server.html>

Study Areas

Looking for a study area to finish an assignment or study for a test? The more popular study areas are in the library and under the Images Theatre in the AQ. The library has study rooms you can book, which is much quieter than their Group Study Area. If you are after a nice quiet area to concentrate, you can try the TASC buildings or head up to the 6th floor of the AQ. These places tend to be quieter as they are close to office spaces. You can also try finding an empty lab in CSIL or relax in the

CSSS common room. During the day, the Common Room is generally noisy, but calms down in the evening.

SFU Network

Wireless

You can get a wireless connection within most places on campus. It's not that fast, but good enough for most computer games. Remember, any illegal activities could result in your access being revoked.

eduroam

Eduroam is a BCNET initiative that allows students, staff and faculty access to wireless services at cooperating universities without the need for obtaining a guest account. This allows visiting students from other institutions to login using the same credentials they would use at home. Support for eduroam is currently available from member institutions in Canada, Asia, Europe, and the United States.

SFUNET vs SFUNET-SECURE

Most people are not aware of the differences between the two. SFUNET-SECURE is an encrypted network while SFUNET is unencrypted. It is suggested that you use SFUNET-SECURE or eduroam over SFUNET so that third parties cannot pretend to be you or read your data. To set up SFUNET-SECURE or eduroam please go to:

<http://www.sfu.ca/itservices/technical/wireless/configuration.html>

Personal Webpace

Every student has a personal webpace attached to their sfuid. You can connect to your webpace through: <http://www.sfu.ca/~<sfuid>>.

To setup the website, connect to your filespace with your sfuid and place the files in the pub_html folder at: <ftp://<sfuid>@ftp.sfu.ca/>

For more information, visit:

https://www.sfu.ca/itservices/publishing/publish_howto/who_can_publish.html

Free Software

As a Computing Science student, you may need some new software for a class or assignment. Software can usually be quite expensive, but don't worry while you're a student here at SFU. Through the Microsoft DreamSpark program (formerly the MSDNAA - Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance) and VMAP (VMware Academic Program) you can download a variety of software free of charge for your own uses. For more information please visit: <https://services.cs.sfu.ca/>

Online Catalogues

SFU Library provides a large selection of books and articles you can access over the internet. Check it out:

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/subject-guides/computing-science/books-articles>

Textbooks

Most courses have required textbooks assigned by the teachers. You can purchase new and used books at the SFU bookstore, but they are usually rather expensive. There are many alternative methods to getting your textbooks such as international editions from *Amazon.ca*, the SFU Textbook Trade Centre on Facebook (<http://goo.gl/ubB4C>), or even borrowing from your fellow peers. Some professors don't use textbooks they assign, so go ask your professor if you need it before you buy it.

Need Help in a Course?

There are three ways to get help when you need it.

1. Ask a TA. Some TA's are better than others, but if the material is related to the course, chances are they should know the solution.
2. Go to your professor's office hours. Your professor will know a whole lot more about the course than the TA's. They tend to get busy around exams, so keep that in mind if you have a question.
3. Hang out in the CSSS Common Room! It's full of your peers who have most likely taken the courses that you need help on.
- 4.[Some reference to Lynda.com]

RateMyProfessor.com

Before taking a course, it's a good idea to see what others thought about your future professors. Keep in mind, some students will rate professors poorly because they slacked off and failed a course.

Therefore, you may want to ask your peers in the Common Room or on Facebook before you decide. When looking at RateMyProf, look for common themes across multiple classes and terms. Some teachers fix issues as they become more experienced and some... don't.

Terminal/Command Line

To call yourself a computer scientist, you will need to learn to use the Terminal and command line. The Terminal will often provide you with a shortcut to any compiler or interpreter you need access to. It also provides you with an abundance of commands that allow you to tweak your computer in ways you never thought possible.

VIM/Emacs

Ditch notepad and use ViM or Emacs. Both are considered to be powerful text-editors created by and utilized by elite in the industry.

LaTeX/LyX

If you ever have to do a MATH or MACM assignment, do it in LaTeX or LyX. LaTeX is a fast and efficient way to organize and complete your math problems. LyX is a bit more user friendly than LaTeX, but it isn't as popular or as well supported by other programs. It's always a good idea to make sure your TA accepts LaTeX or LyX before you use either one.

Linux

At some point during your studies you should install a Linux distribution on your computer. It is a good idea to get comfortable with Linux as it is very likely you will have to use it at some point in your career. Installing Linux is a great learning experience and can often make your life easier thanks to its powerful Terminal and utilities. There's an abundance of distributions available, so find one that fits your needs and set up a dual boot. You'll thank yourself later.

Course Planning Resources

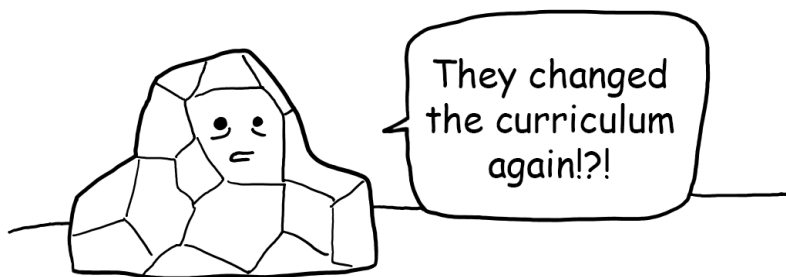
<https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2017/fall.html>

<http://www.sfu.ca/computing/current-students/undergraduate-students/student-resources/course-schedules.html>

<http://www.sfu.ca/outlines.html>

<https://www.sfu.ca/math/undergraduate/calendarandprojectedofferings.html>

Advice from CS Students



EVENTUALLY, THIS WILL BE YOU.

Advice from Kia Mirsalehi

Have fun. I think a lot of people come into university and spend too much time just trying to get high marks and simply pass through to the next stage of life. Take this time to enjoy life before it's gone. Join a few clubs, get involved in student politics, meet people, and go out often. Find a hobby then find a group of people to enjoy it with. That's not to say to ignore your school work, just to make sure you don't forget that at the end of the day, you should try and enjoy yourself and your time here.

There are plenty of places to just hang around, doing a whole lot of nothing while having a whole lot of fun. Come check out the CS common room, there's bound to be a bunch of nice people there. Go walk around campus for an hour or two; it's a lot nicer than a lot of people realize and there are some interesting places you can get too that you'll never find if you don't go looking. The general idea here is to spend time doing something on campus. You spend so much time transiting up to here, might as well find something to do and have fun with.

Come check out the CS discord, you can get a lot of help with classes, play games with other students such as yourself, or just chat with like-minded individuals.

When it comes to studying, the key is consistency. Be consistent in attending classes and do homework. Don't blow it all off for a week and then go ham the next. A consistent schedule helps you stay on top of the material and minimizes the total amount of work and effort you need to put in the class. Make sure to do all your assignments, even if they aren't worth marks. Listening to profs lecture or reading your textbooks is nice and dandy, but we are in an applied science faculty for a reason. Applying your knowledge in problems and assignments is the best way to make sure you know your stuff and get good marks.

Advice from Dawn Chandler

Even if you're just a first-year, consider where you want to end up in your career, and take steps now to make it happen. You'll thank yourself later.

Academics/Research: focus on school, take theory-heavy courses, get to know the research faculty so that you can work or volunteer doing research in their labs.

CS Education: volunteer for outreach programs, tutor, give workshops, teach at a coding school.

Management: seek leadership opportunities in group projects and extracurricular activities. Be aware that most people have to work in a technical role post-graduation before anyone will offer them a job in people management.

Software Development: do co-op or internships, build your project portfolio (by competing in hackathons, contributing to open source projects, working on personal projects), take online courses to learn new languages and tools, study for technical interviews by doing programming puzzles.

Don't worry if you're not a computer geek or a gamer or don't know what Linux is or have never even programmed before. You're here to learn! Don't worry either if your degree takes a while or costs a lot of money or makes your life difficult. You'll soon see why CS is worth it.

Advice from Your Peers

If you get the chance, take some courses in Surrey. Some of the courses there, such as CMPT225 and MACM201, are taught in a manner that is much easier to understand than at Burnaby campus.

- Ellis Ly

Don't just do your requirements and graduate. There are lots of interesting courses.

- *Benton Lam*

Pay Attention!!!

- *Mike Klemarewski*

Don't bring your laptop to lecture, it will only distract you.

- *Curtis Muller*

There is a blood alcohol content that facilitates more efficient coding. Discover it.

- *Corey Baker*

When buying books don't buy them from the bookstore. If you try hard enough you can get it cheaper or for free.

- *Jordan Klassen*

Pick your prof. Some are very good at teaching.

- *Bentom Lam*

Poor time management will be the death of your degree.

- *Ivan Jelinic*

Socialize with people regardless of which faculty and school they may be from, new friends can only enrich your path to a successful career.

- *David Cheung*

A course can be excellent or useless depending on who's teaching it.

- *Chani Armitage*

On average, work equates to over 30 years of your life. Don't feel the need to graduate from university in 4. Take your time, and enjoy it while it lasts.

- *Jesse Paris*

Do an international exchange; traveling might just give your GPA a boost.

- *Shawn Janespar*

I cannot stress this enough. Work on personal projects outside of class that explore topics of interest. Learn about good programming practices and try to follow them in everything you do. This not only shows initiative but can also lead to an impressive portfolio.

- *Eric Raue*

Fight for every single mark you can grasp, it is the difference between letter grades.

- Ivan Jelinic

Keep your courses balanced; a well-balanced 5 course semester can be easier than an unbalanced 3 course semester.

- Jason Hamilton-Smith

Doing co-op will help you along with your cover letter, resume and interview experience. After being through it a few times, you carry yourself differently when you do it for reals.

- Benton Lam

Make friends with those in your faculty; grinding through your degree with friends pulling all-nighters is a lot more fun than doing it alone.

- Shawn Janespar

Start working on personal projects and practising for technical interviews now. You cannot cram Cracking the Coding Interview or code an app the night before your interview.

- Dawn Chandler

Learn to eat, sleep and breathe Linux. And coding, love coding like your first born child and be prepared to spend long hours failing to understand MACM courses.

-Jace Manshadi

First year is hard for everyone but it will be one of the best years of your life so enjoy the sleepless nights, the pizza for breakfast, and the "I used to get 90s in High School now I can't even get 60s" freakouts. Just remember... it does not get better so get used to it. JK! Just remember that you will soon be doing what you love and then you will realize that it was all worth it. #WhatDoesntKillYouMakesYouStronger

- Laura Guevara

Advice from the CS Office

Read all of the instructions on forms and include everything on the list that is requested; before submitting, review and ensure you have included everything.

Plan ahead when submitting request forms to administrators. Multiple people may have to review them, and sign them, so allow several weeks for processing.

Look at the CS website and see if the information you are looking for is online. There is a frequently asked question section that is very helpful.

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The Google logo, featuring the word "Google" in its characteristic multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, blue, green, red).