



ADVICE FROM UPPER YEARS!


We asked upper year CS students for some advice and tips on courses to take, online learning, best studying practices, co-op interviews and more!



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We hope that their testimonials inspire you and help you throughout your undergraduate journey.



FAVOURITE COURSES

What is your favourite course that you have taken?

"My favourite course this semester is probably biological anthropology (ANTH 204) as it's a refreshing break from CS courses and has video lectures I can watch as opposed to only readings"

"My favourite course last term was CS251 as it genuinely sparked my interest and the online learning was transitioned really well!"

"My favourite course this semester is probably Korea101R. I've always wanted to learn a language and so far it's been pretty fun!"

What is your favourite non-CS/Math course that you have taken at UW?

Faculty of Arts

ENGL 109 - Intro to Academic Writing – "Was GREAT because the prof made the entire course as an overall exploration of music, its role in culture, society, and social justice, and it really reshaped the way I felt about certain genres, songs, and methods of expression."

PSYCH 253 - Social Psychology – "It covered a lot of ground and discussed how emotions, ethics, and beliefs can affect how we interact with others."

Faculty of Engineering

BET 350 - Customer Experience Design – "Favourite course hands down"

Faculty of Environment

GEOG 101 - Human Geographies: People, Space and Change – "In this class, we focused mainly on sustainability and how people in third world countries live."

Faculty of Science

BIOL 239 - Genetics – "Interesting course if you're into biology (and no prerequisite required!)"

SCI238 - Intro to Astronomy – "Teaches really interesting info on the earth, stars, planets, and the universe. The prof was super knowledgeable as well."



STUDYING AND MANAGING YOUR TIME

What tips do you have for other students for studying online?

"My tip for studying online is to take breaks outside and keep your phone out of reach."

"For online studying, I also highly recommend Notion for daily todos and deadlines. I've also added pages for grade calculators and a page to keep track of co-op job statuses."



"Personally, when my coursework is peppered throughout the day, it starts to feel like I never have any free time even though I took breaks in between. To prevent this from snowballing into feelings of burnout, I like to have a cut off time around 5 or 6 pm. This also has helped me stay more focused and engaged in lectures and assignments."

What are some strategies you use to manage your time during school?

"Having an accountability partner helps me a lot. I also try to say no to social events and meetings where necessary if I know that I need to prioritize my schoolwork more. Try finding classmates through Connect > Classlist and set up a study group with people who are willing!"

"A tip I used during my term was to set to-do lists with small goals and starting with the largest/most dreaded task first. As soon as that was out of the way, everything else seemed easier in comparison and I felt motivated to cross the other things off the list."

"I write down all my deliverables and tests so I can keep track of what I need to do by when, and I'm also able to break larger tasks down into more manageable chunks!"





CO-OP INTERVIEWS

How do you prepare for co-op interviews?

"I booked many mock interviews with the career centre advisors before the first formal interview. I walked away with many practical suggestions after each mock interview, and as a result, my first interview worked really well."

"I always get worried that I'm going to get asked a question that I have no idea how to solve, or completely blank out! I've had lots of brainfart moments and I think the best way to prepare is to do lots of practice."

"I recommend preparing a few questions to ask at the end. Interviews are a dialogue, and in addition to using the opportunity to know more about the company, asking good questions shows your interest and what you value."

What advice would you give first years on how to nail your co-op interviews?

"My biggest interview tip for technical interviews is to jot down notes while they explain the question to you or while you think through the problem. It helps me keep track of what they are asking for and it also makes it easier to voice my thoughts, which interviewers always want to hear!"

"For me, my biggest tips are to not be afraid to ask clarifying questions, and also to think out loud as you work through a technical problem. This way, not only is it easier for you to understand the full requirements of the technical question you're asked, but it also helps show off your communication skills."

What was your first co-op interview experience like?

"I remember being so nervous and anxious for my first interview. I practiced so much the night before and the interview ended up not being as difficult or scary as I thought."

"I remember I was so scared for my first interview too, but it ended up being fun to have a conversation with my interviewer!"

