

A few notes on this offering of CSCI 260

1. Why do this work?

- Navier-Stokes problem

Open AI
yesterday (Sept 8
2026)

- planar unit distance problem

○ ○ ○ ○ $\approx 2n$ pairs, n large

○ ○ ○ ○ $\approx \frac{n^{1+c}}{\log \log n}$ for constant C

○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○

The latter is greater, and
was conjectured to be
optimal.

Open AI.. May 2026

AI is doing stuff in the mathematical space.

But humans are needed.

2. Why do the work that I don't mark?

- very best way to train for the work I do mark.

- what are you here for?

- most graded work has been moved to

Supervised assessments.

- more than ever, in the classroom and in the lab, I will be relying on you to be
 - open to finding out that this is  fun for us, +
 - cognizant that you are here to train your mind (not just get a grade)

Grading:

3 x 15% tests Thursdays 4:30-5:30
Oct 8, Oct 29, Nov 26

15% for submitted work throughout term

- theory

- programs (emerging from some labs)

40% for final exam

Some adaptations to our schedule:

Some Thursdays I will be in morning meetings

Can those in the 9-10 lab come to lab at a

Sept 17

different time? 2³⁰?

Oct 1 (?)

Nov 26 - midterm day

Website: www.csci.viu.ca/~gpruesse/

- select CSCI 260 Data Structures & Algorithms

A word to the differently - prepared...

At VU students learn programming in C++ from year 1.

This imparts an understanding of memory allocation, management, pointers, etc.

C++ exposes the machine

- memory allocation (new, delete)
- pointers + references
- object layout
- indirection
- resource management

As a result...

Data Structures feel real

Complexity analysis makes more sense

If you have taken a course that includes assembly - language programming (162, 261) you will also have the advantage of "bare-metal" awareness.

You will have to catch up, learn these basics.

You have the CSCI Help Centre + Math Centre
+ Gara's office hours + Lab time to help you.