For Students in Computer Science Courses

UCSB has announced that all instruction for spring quarter 2020 will be remote. Here’s a quick summary of what you can expect for your spring quarter CS courses.

What a spring quarter class is:

- Remote instruction of a regularly scheduled CS course.
- The same class as usual, in as nearly the regular form as possible, just not in person.

What a spring quarter class is not:

- A MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). Full-blown MOOCs have both pluses and minuses, and we are not moving the whole CS curriculum to MOOC-land!
- Infinitely expandable (sadly). We still have the same number of TAs, graders, and tutors as usual, so unfortunately we can’t raise the planned enrollments of spring classes.
- Perfectly polished. We’re all learning how to do this, students and faculty alike. Here’s a video of how it looks from the professor's side. It may look pretty similar from your side, but we will survive!

The details will vary some from class to class. You can expect:

- All lectures, office hours, sections, and labs will be conducted remotely, even if you are still on campus or in Santa Barbara.
- All work will be submitted, graded, and returned online. Platforms will vary by class, including for example GauchoSpace and GradeScope.
- In most cases, lectures and sections will be livestreamed during their scheduled hours. (Some courses may use their scheduled hours in other ways.)
- One-on-one and group interaction with instructors, TAs, and tutors will still be available, important, and expected.
- You will still be responsible for “attending class” at the regularly scheduled time. Sections too. Even if you’re attending from a different time zone! (Some of your TAs will be up in the middle of the night in their time zones for section too 😊.)
- Waitlisted students will hear from the instructor whether or not crashing remotely is permitted. Please don’t email the instructor before the start of the quarter.

Where to get more information:

- About your CS class: From your instructor; specifics vary by class.
- About your graduating class year: Your year’s faculty advisor (bottom of this page).
- About the BS program: ugradhelp@cs.ucsb.edu.
- About the BS/MS: gradhelp@cs.ucsb.edu. Info about applying remotely will be coming.
- About UCSB COVID-19 info.
- Help with your own personal situation, medical situation, feelings of stress: Student Health Service, Counseling Services (CAPS).

Stay tuned in! The situation is fluid, and we’ll keep you informed as things evolve. Stay engaged! Tell us how you're doing and what you need, or give us feedback, here.

And remember ... computer scientists invented all this stuff. Now we get to use it for real!