1 Introduction

TA office hours for CS15 will be held in a TA lab (CIT 271), also known as the Fishbowl, every day of the week! A calendar of TA hours can be found here. CS15 uses a wait line program called SignMeUp (signmeup.cs.brown.edu). Students can sign up for hours using the designated SignMeUp computer in the Fishbowl to add their names to the queue, and will be notified when it is their turn. You can also view the queue from anywhere at the above URL.

2 Outline of policies

1. You must sign up with a valid login, or you will lose your spot in line. If you accidentally type the wrong login, notify a TA immediately and then re-signup with your correct login.

2. If you hit a bug, you should have put significant effort into fixing it on your own before seeing a TA. You should demonstrate this via showing relevant documentation, pseudocode, design and object breakdown, and evidence of your debugging efforts. TAs have been instructed to turn away students who can not provide evidence of attempting to solve their problem on their own.

3. The SignMeUp system has a field for “Question.” This should be filled in with a question more specific than, for example, “LiteBrite Question.” TAs can only help with the question entered (if you solve it on your own before being called, awesome! Please remove yourself from the queue following the instructions here).

4. To be fair to other students in line, each TA hours visit is capped at 15 minutes.

5. The SignMeUp system allows you to sign up once per hour (even if there is no line).

6. Students are not allowed to work on their own in the Fishbowl. If you are not actively speaking with a TA, please wait outside the room.

7. If you do not show up within 5 minutes of your name being called, you will lose your spot in line. There are consequences for repeatedly not showing up for hours you sign up for.

8. TA hours will end at the posted time regardless of the length of the queue left (TAs are students too, with their lives). TA hours grow exponentially longer as the project goes on, so it’s a bad idea to expect to get help the last 30 minutes of TA hours before a deadline.

3 The Lab-Checkoff & “No-Code” Lines

The TAs will also keep a list on the whiteboard for lab-checkoffs. In additional, during certain TA Hours times, the TAs are piloting a new “no-code” line on the whiteboard. This line is intended only for conceptual and design questions. If you enter in this line, the TA will not look at or discuss your code. They can, instead, talk over UML diagrams, general design, or conceptual examples. You may only be in either the No-Code or the standard line at one time.