CS16 TA Hours Policy

http://www.cs.brown.edu/courses/cs016/

Spring 2020

TA hours are a great place to get help with homeworks, projects, and other course content. In order to make TA hours a fair and consistent experience for all students, we have created a set of policies by which students must abide.

Overview

In CS16, you can use SignMeUp to sign up for TA hours. The SignMeUp queue will open approximately five minutes before hours begin. Once hours begin, the queue will be shuffled.

When you sign up for hours, you must enter a description of the issue with which you’d like help in hours. For example, “Why does my seamcarve only carve straight, vertical seams?” Descriptions such as, “help,” “seamcarve,” or “hw3 problem 4” are not acceptable and will make it more difficult for TAs to help you to the best of their ability! You must come to hours having attempted to debug your code and be able to explain what you have already attempted. If you are unable to do this, the TA will release you back into the queue and give you 30 minutes to attempt to debug your code, whereupon you can be seen again.

When it’s your turn for hours, a TA will call your name or notify you electronically (if you ask them to in your signup). If you are missing at that time, you have 15 minutes to show up and inform a TA on hours that you have arrived. If you do not arrive within 15 minutes of your name being called and notify a TA, your place in line will be forfeited and you will be removed from the queue. Please check the queue regularly while you are waiting to be seen so that you can be prepared to arrive on time.

Once your name has been called, a TA will help you with one issue OR for a maximum of 15 minutes before moving on to the next student in the queue, as we’d like every student to get the chance to see a TA! There is no guarantee that a TA will be able to fully solve your problem or bug during the time you spend with them. You know your work and code the best and are the best-suited individual to solve your bugs. TAs are here to point you in the right direction, teach you debugging techniques, and help you to the best of their ability during the 15-minute period.

After being helped by a TA, you must wait an hour before SignMeUp will allow you to join the queue again. We want you to think about the problem by yourself before coming back to a TA!

Clinic Hours

Clinic hours allow you to work together on problems in a manner in accordance with the collaboration policy. Therefore, you may work through concepts or written questions in the homework but may not work together on code in any form. TAs will be present to guide you if you have any questions or to facilitate discussion, but you may not take notes, pictures or any other materials away from the clinic.

Conceptual Hours

Directly after a project is released, some blocks of TA hours will be made conceptual hours. Here, you can speak to TAs in a larger room together with a group of students about any conceptual questions relating to the project. This can be confusion as to how an algorithm works, questions from lecture, etc. You may not discuss any code specific issues they have in conceptual hours.
**Etiquette**

- Be respectful to your TAs and fellow students.
- Do not ask your TAs for answers or to verify answers. TAs are here to help you learn and gain understanding of the course material, and this is unfair to other students in the course.
  - If a TA says that they cannot answer a question, please respect this!
- When your question has been answered or 15 minutes have passed, please be polite and respectfully allow the TA to move on to the next student.
- When you’re leaving hours, thank the TA that helped you! TAs are students too with their own coursework, so please make sure you let them know you appreciate the work they do! ☺️

**Piazza**

In general, you may only make public posts on Piazza. Note that your code cannot be posted publicly. You may only make private posts including code if you are referred to do so by a TA. You may get a TA referral either during hours or over a public Piazza post. You must include the login of the TA that referred you in your post or add a link to the Piazza post from which you were referred. Any posting of code cannot exceed 100 lines.