

# How to Master CS 5301

CS 5301  
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## How to master this class:

- Prepare and practice each week!
- Do the practice problems from the outline
- You can practice in the labs: DERR 231 and MCS 590 (eclipse)
- Make sure your solutions are correct (compile, run, execute, test on sample data)
- Do some practice on paper, to prepare for quizzes
- in general, do NOT memorize code
- If you get stuck on a practice problem, get help! (come to office hours, etc.)

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## Problem solving steps

- Understand the problem description
- Generate a hypothetical solution
  - Think in terms of steps computer must perform
- Encode the solution (write the C++ code)
- Check your work
  - Trace your code, go through it step by step, carry out the instructions to see if they will solve the problem (you must be able to read code)
  - Look for errors in your solution (incorrect syntax, missing or misplaced { }, undefined variables, etc).

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