How to Master CS 5301

• Prepare and practice each week!
• Do the practice problems from the outline, writing your own solution from scratch. Do not use a solution online or from another student.
• Practice in the labs: DERR 231 or MCS 590 (eclipse or codeblocks) or on your own computer
• 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.)

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).