

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When is the first day of class?

- The first day of class is usually a week or so after the assessment.
- The first day of CIS 106 will be on January 23 for the Milpitas section and January 22 for the main campus section (assuming there is enough interest to warrant a second section).
- For Spring 2019, the first day of CIS 107 will be on January 25.

2. What is the cost?

- There are no extra costs for these classes – both CIS 106 and 107 are 3 units, so the cost is the same as any other 3-unit course at SJCC. For CA residents, this would be \$138 (\$46/unit).

3. Do I need to know how to code already? What if I've never coded before?

- For CIS 106, no problem! CIS 106 is a beginning programming class covering the Python programming language.
- For CIS 107, the assumption is that you already know how to code in Python. If you have never coded before, or if you are not familiar with Python, take CIS 106 or CIS-024C, and then take CIS 107 at a later time.

4. I'm going to take vacation -- can I miss a week?

- Yes, however, you are responsible for keeping up with the material in the class. You will need to watch the videos and do the homework.

5. I'm a high school student. Am I allowed to enroll in this program?

- Yes, however, you will need to do all of the steps involved with taking a college class (principal needs to sign the form, parents need to sign the form, etc.).
- Check with one of the counselors to help you get your paperwork filled out.
- For details, visit <http://www.sjcc.edu/future-students/assessment-center>

6. I know there is a wait list; how competitive is it to be chosen for the program?

- Everyone who submits an application will be admitted into at least CIS 106. The most important question on the assessment is: *Into which section would you prefer to be placed?*

7. Do I already have to be an SJCC student?

- Before you can be officially enrolled, you must be an SJCC student. You can do this today!
- The Application for Admission online is at [CCCAApply](#).

8. Do I have to buy books?

- For CIS 106, there is a recommended book, which will be given to you as a loaner.
- For CIS 107, the book is a free, online e-book.

9. Do I need my own computer?

- No. We have computers that you can use in class. That said, we strongly recommend that you have your own personal computer or laptop so that you can follow along the assignments from home.
- You may find that it's easier to do the work if you have your own computer. Make sure it is a Windows or a Macintosh computer, and not a Chromebook.

10. Can I get a job in the tech field after taking this program?

- Yes! There are lots of job opportunities available for novice computer programmers!

11. What programming language will we be learning?

- We will be using Python in both CIS 106 and 107.

12. Will I be proficient at python after this course?

- CIS 106 is a beginning programming course; you will be exposed to Python and be able to interpret and understand how to write novice programs by the end of the class. Becoming proficient requires dedication – the more you write code, the easier it becomes.

13. Do you provide internship opportunities upon completion of this program?

- Not directly, however, we work with several organizations that will help you gain internship opportunities if you are so interested. Also, reach out to your professor at the end of the course about possible lab assistant opportunities in the CIS department.
- Talk with Steven Lee, San Jose City College's Job Development/Placement Specialist: steven.lee@sjcc.edu

14. Do you provide programming tutors for this course?

- We have TAs that help with the class. There are tutors available through the tutoring service on the main campus as well.

15. How do I register?

- You need to complete the assessment. For Spring 2019, the assessment will be held on January 12.

16. What if I can't make it to the assessment or the orientation day?

- If you cannot attend the orientation day, please watch the video of the orientation (should be posted shortly after orientation day).
- If you cannot attend the assessment day in person, contact the instructor or counselor and complete the assessment online.

17. Do I receive some sort of certificate?

- We are in the process of developing and implementing a Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate. These should be available by the Fall of 2019.

18. How hard is the test to be accepted into this program?

- The test is less about what you know – it’s more to check whether CIS 106 or CIS 107 would be the better choice for you. If you already are a programmer (either because you have taken a programming class or because you’re self-taught), then probably CIS 107 would be a better fit. If you don’t know any of the answers, then CIS 106 would be the best fit for you!

19. Do I need to be a fluent English speaker?

- No, but obviously the course is taught using the human language English. The language the computers use in CIS 106 and 107 is Python.

20. What are the Advisory Levels recommended for CIS 106 and 107?

- Read: 3
- Write: 3
- Math: 3

21. What will be the focus on the CIS-107 – Foundations of Data Science course?

- The CIS-107 – Foundations of Data Science is similar to the data8 offering at UC Berkeley. As of Dec 2018, the course is fully articulated by UC Berkeley.
- The course leverages the EdX online learning platform. It consists of three modules
 - i. Python fundamentals for Data Science
 - ii. Probability and Statistical Inferences using Python
 - iii. Machine Learning Concepts using Python

22. What do I do next once I complete the CIS-107 course?

- As the name suggests “The Foundations of Data Science course” attempts to provide our students with a strong foundation in Data Science concepts including Statistics, Big Data and Machine Learning. Python is used as the development language.
- After completing this course, you will have the necessary knowledge to independently explore more advanced concepts in Big Data and Machine Learning.
- You could either look for beginner-type opportunities in the software industry in careers that require basic knowledge of programming and Data Science. The other option is for you to pursue advanced courses in Data Science in order to become more well-versed with these technologies.