Student Guide: CSC115 Assignments

Quick guide to completing and submitting Jupyter notebook assignments.

How Assignments Work

All assignments are submitted to Gradescope for automated grading.

Your code is tested with:

- **Visible tests**: In your notebook - basic checks to guide development
- **Hidden tests**: Run only on Gradescope - verify edge cases and correctness

Important: Passing all visible tests does NOT guarantee full credit.

Workflow

1. Download from Canvas

- Canvas → CSC115 → Assignments → Download `.ipynb` file
- Organize by week: `Documents/CSC115/week01_lab/`, etc.

2. Open in Jupyter

Double-click your launch script:

- **Windows**: `launch_jupyter.bat`
- **macOS**: `launch_jupyter.command`
- **Linux**: `launch_jupyter.sh`

3. Complete Assignment

Notebook has three cell types:

📘 **Instruction cells** (read-only) - Problem descriptions, requirements, point values

✏️ **Your code cells** - Look for `# YOUR CODE HERE` and `raise NotImplementedError()`

- Replace with your solution
- **Delete** the `raise NotImplementedError()` line

✅ **Test cells** (read-only) - Run these to check your work

Work process:

1. Read entire notebook
2. Write code in "YOUR CODE HERE" cells
3. Run cells: **Shift + Enter**
4. Test as you go

5. Save frequently: **Ctrl+S** / **Cmd+S**

4. Before Submitting

Critical steps:

1. `Kernel` → `Restart & Run All`
2. Verify all cells run without errors
3. Review all outputs
4. Save

5. Submit to Gradescope

1. Go to gradescope.com
2. CSC115 → Click assignment → Submit → Upload `.ipynb` file
3. Wait 2-5 minutes for autograding
4. Review results (visible + hidden tests)

You can resubmit unlimited times before the deadline. Only latest submission counts.

Understanding Results

Score Types

✓ **All tests passed (10/10)** - Perfect!

⚠ **Partial credit (5/10)** - Some tests failed (check which ones)

❌ **Failed (0/10)** - Review error messages

Test Feedback

Visible tests show exact failures:

```
AssertionError: Expected 16.0934 but got 16.0
```

Hidden tests show limited info:

```
Hidden test failed (test_edge_case_1)
```

Common Errors & Fixes

NotImplementedError

- You forgot to delete `raise NotImplementedError()`

NameError: name 'x' is not defined

- Variable not created or typo

TypeError: unsupported operand type(s)

- Wrong data type (e.g., adding string + number)

AssertionError: Expected X but got Y

- Code runs but produces wrong result

Tests pass locally but fail on Gradescope

- Hidden tests check cases you didn't test
- Test edge cases: empty inputs, negatives, large values, zero, etc.

"Cell is read-only"

- Don't edit instruction/test cells, only "YOUR CODE HERE" cells

"Kernel appears to be dead"

- Infinite loop or memory error
- `Kernel` → `Restart`, debug your code

Academic Integrity

✅ Allowed

- Course materials and documentation
- Asking instructors/TAs for help
- Discussing concepts with classmates
- Searching for syntax help

❌ Not Allowed

- Copying code from anyone/anywhere
- Sharing your code
- Using AI (ChatGPT, Copilot) to write solutions
- Submitting others' work

Violations = Zero on assignment + report to Dean

When in doubt, ask your instructor.

Getting Help

How to Ask Good Questions

Good: "I'm on Problem 3 converting miles to km. I wrote `km = miles * 1.6` but get 'Expected 16.0934 but got 16.0'. What's wrong?"

Bad: "My code doesn't work. Help?"

Always include:

1. Which problem
2. What you tried
3. Error message
4. What you expected

Where to Get Help

- **Lab sessions**: Bring laptop, show your code to TAs
- **Office hours**: Bring notebook file, explain what you've tried
- **Canvas**: Discussion board for questions

Quick Reference

Keyboard Shortcuts

Action	Shortcut
Run cell	Shift + Enter
Save	Ctrl+S / Cmd+S
Insert cell below	B (command mode)
Delete cell	DD (command mode)

Esc = command mode (blue border) | **Enter** = edit mode (green border)

Checklist Before Submitting

- ☐ All problems completed
- ☐ All `raise NotImplementedError()` deleted
- ☐ `Kernel` → `Restart & Run All` runs without errors
- ☐ All visible tests pass
- ☐ Saved

Tips for Success

1. **Start early** - Avoid deadline stress
2. **Test frequently** - Run cells as you write
3. **Read carefully** - Understand requirements before coding
4. **Restart & Run All** - Before every submission
5. **Think about edge cases** - Empty, negative, zero, very large
6. **Ask for help early** - Don't struggle alone

7. **Resubmit** - Use feedback to improve before deadline

Good luck! 🎉