
CS 202 C++ Coding Standards

Rule 1 *Source code files in C++ must have the file name extension “.cc”; header code files must have the file name extension “.h”.*

If you develop on a home system that has some other convention and then port here, and it compiles, we’ll live with it.

Rule 2 *Every source code file must begin with a block comment that gives general information about the module (and the programmer’s name).*

Rule 3 *Every class must be immediately preceded by a block comment describing the class.*

Rule 4 *Every function must be immediately preceded by a block comment describing the function.*

Very short constructors and destructors may omit this.

Rule 5 *Class, function and variable names must be meaningful, and must begin with a lower case letter and contain at least three symbols. Variable names must have a short comment at their declaration or definition.*

Exceptions: Local variables only: Loop control variables, array indices, x, y, z used for coordinates, a short list of input parameters of a short function.

Recommendation 6 *Variable names should be 5 to 15 characters long, and consist of one to three English words. Words should be either separated by underscores, or each word but the first capitalized. (Use the same style throughout!)*

Recommendation 7 *Do not use different variable names that differ by a single character.*

Rule 8 *Pick some consistent style for the use of curly braces, and use it everywhere.*

Rule 9 *Leave one blank space after each comma, and each C++ reserved word (e.g., “if” or “return”).*

Exceptions: No space between sizeof and the open parenthesis.

Rule 10 *Do not put any space between a unary operator and its argument. Do not put any space between an array name and an indexing []. Do leave one space on either side of a binary operator.*

Exceptions: Do not put a space around “.” or “->”. In a deeply nested expression, you may omit the space around operators at the deepest level of nesting either to improve readability or to avoid a line break.

Recommendation 11 *In any UIC CS course numbered 202 or higher, expect the TA to take off points if the programs you turn in do not obey decent coding standards.*

If the instructor is one of Buy, Drake, or Sloan, expect the TA to take off a lot of points.