

This syllabus was written in 2011. Internet links change often, please verify before beginning.

**TEXT:** ISBN 978-0-495-80638-7 Discovering Computers 2010 Complete by Shelly, Cashman

Available online for under \$4 (with shipping!) – check out [BetterWorldBooks.com](http://BetterWorldBooks.com)

Set up a free account on the text’s companion website: <http://login.cengagebrain.com/cb/>

Select “I don’t have an access code”

Print out the DSST Fact Sheet for Intro to Computers: <http://www.getcollegetcredit.com/resources.html>

*If this schedule doesn’t move at your pace ... adjust! Your student might come with more or less initial knowledge about the subject.*

*Note: one student had this to say: **Focusing on use of the glossary during study is a great idea. I've studied for and passed several exams by learning the glossary and reading the end of chapter summaries. This is an effective way of studying for exams without having to read the entire text.***

Week 1

**Chapter 1** is an overview of the whole book, so we won’t bother reading it in its entirety. Instead, for this week:

1. Hop on the text’s companion website and see what is there. There are a lot of useful tools. One of my favs is the **Key Terms**. We will be utilizing the online Quizzes and Tests, but you should add any of the other fun options (Computer Genius?) in your free time.

When you get your book: (Note: these were the pages for the 2008 book – your 2010 book pages may be different).

Pg. 43 – Label the Figure (go ahead and write in the book!)

Pg. 52-65 – Timeline: Read through these pages OR have it read to you:

<http://oc.course.com/sc/dc2008/index.cfm?action=time&chapter=1>

Week 2 **Chapter 2**

For all chapters, follow this pattern:

**TERMS: -- This Dantes exam is all about TERMS**

Make a copy of the TERMS page at the end of the chapter. Read through and make a mark next to the ones you would not be able to give an explanation/definition for (focus on the primary terms). After reading the chapter, review the marked TERMS. If you are still unclear of their meaning you have a few options ... choose one or more:

- a. Discuss with a computer geek – or at least someone who might know
- b. Look them up in the chapter (you are given the page numbers)
- c. Pop on to the online option KEY TERMS and run through them

**READING:**

Read the chapter, but if you are looking to cut down on the number of pages you are reading, you can skip the extra bling like pg 39: Companies, or pgs. 48-49 Learn How to. Of course, read if you find interesting! These pages do put the glossary terms into context.

**QUIZ:**

While reading ... stop when you get to the Quiz Yourself Box and take these on the spot. (Go ahead and write in the book). You can flip to Appendix B in your text and self-correct.

**IMPORTANT:** It is NOT about how many you get right or wrong (that day will come). For now, we are interested in **inputting** correct information. So give yourself a pat on the back for all you answered correctly, but make it quick. To be effective in your studies, you need to review your **WRONG** answers thoroughly. Don't just gloss over and say YEAH, I got 13 out of 15. Nadda. You should go back over the two you got wrong and read through the question and the correct answer. No great pumpkin will fall on your head if you don't. No evil teacher will make you stand in the corner either. You're on your own for this one. But remember, reviewing wrong answers thoroughly will get you one step closer to knowing the subject well enough to earn college credit 😊



Want more practice, you will find more quizzes for each section online. These are multiple choice and immediately self-correct.

	<p><b>TEST:</b></p> <p>You will be taking two online tests for each chapter – one from this book and one from the 2007 edition (just for more practice) Bookmark these sites.</p> <p>2007 edition: <a href="http://oc.course.com/sc/dc2007/index.cfm">http://oc.course.com/sc/dc2007/index.cfm</a></p> <p>2008 edition: <a href="http://oc.course.com/sc/dc2008/index.cfm?action=home">http://oc.course.com/sc/dc2008/index.cfm?action=home</a></p> <p>Do I even need to say “<b>Review your wrong answers</b>” after scoring the test?</p>
<p><b>NOTE:</b> Do you have an auditory or visual learner? If so, you have options! Encourage your student to “listen” to the <u>Key Terms</u> on the Companion Website. Also, instead of having them read the entire chapter, try this method: Listen to the <u>Chapter Review</u> on the Companion Website (more than once) and then page through the text, focusing on the pictures and diagrams. This may be enough INPUT of the chapter material that actually reading the text will be unnecessary.</p>	
<p><b>RESOURCE:</b> Find a copy of The History Channel program: Modern Marvels – Computers. Watch sometime during your study. Check interlibrary loan, Netflix or Amazon  <a href="http://www.amazon.com/Modern-Marvels-Computers-History-Channel/dp/B000BKVL8Y">http://www.amazon.com/Modern-Marvels-Computers-History-Channel/dp/B000BKVL8Y</a></p>	
Week 3	Ch 3
Week 4	Ch 4
Week 5	Skim Ch 5-6-7 (majority of chapter info not on exam)
Week 6	Ch 8
Week 7	Ch 9 (we are skipping ch 10, 14 and 15 ... read if they interest you)
Week 8	Ch 11
Week 9	Ch 12
Week 10	<p>Ch 13</p> <p>Want more study? Consider subscribing to <a href="http://www.instantcert.com/college.php4">http://www.instantcert.com/college.php4</a> Test-specific online flashcards. \$20/month for unlimited subjects (Enter Code 85513 for \$5 discount on your first month)</p> <p>Online Flashcards are available from a variety of sites like:  <a href="http://www.flashcardexchange.com/tag/dsst">http://www.flashcardexchange.com/tag/dsst</a></p>
Week 11	<p>Take a practice exam. Find resources here, including a free pdf download option.  <a href="http://creditsbeforecollege.com/resources-and-links/quality-practice-exams/">http://creditsbeforecollege.com/resources-and-links/quality-practice-exams/</a></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Reviewing your wrong answers is more important than ever.</p> <p>To pass the DSST exam, you will need a score of 400, which is about 50% ... your goal for these practice exams is scores of at least 56-60% on 2 exams in a row.</p>

Week 12	Practice Exam – review wrong answers, filling in the gaps. <b>(Parents, schedule the exam with the testing center)</b>
Week 13	Take a second (different) practice exam and fill in your learning gaps. Need even more practice? Go back and take the first exam again (you may need to set up another new account). Your goal for these practice exams is scores of at least 56-60% on 2 exams in a row before you sit for the official exam. This should be your score taking the exam for the first time, not a repeat, before you feel ready to sit for the official exam.
Week 14	Take the exam!

NOTE: There are three exam titles that deal with computers. The DSST is considered the easiest, then the CLEP, then MIS CLEP. If you have an interest in computers, you may want to consider taking all three. To get started though, this syllabus is for the DSST.

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### Table of Contents

[Introduction to Computers](#) Chapter 1 introduced you to basic computer concepts such as what a computer is, how it works, and what makes it a powerful tool. You learned about the components of the computer, networks, the Internet, and computer software.

[The Internet and World Wide Web](#) Chapter 2 presented the history and structure of the Internet. The World Wide Web was discussed, including browsers, Web addresses, navigating, searching, multimedia, and e-commerce.

[Application Software](#) Chapter 3 illustrated how to start and use application software. It then presented an overview of a variety of business software, graphics and multimedia software, home/personal/educational software, and communications software.

[The Components of the System Unit](#) Chapter 4 presented the components of the system unit, described how memory stores data, instructions, and information, and discussed the sequence of operations that occur when a computer executes an instruction.

[Input](#) Chapter 5 defined input as any data or instructions you enter into memory of a computer. This chapter described the various techniques of input and several commonly used input devices.

[Output](#) Chapter 6 presented how computers process and organize input into output. This chapter described the various methods of output and several commonly used output devices.

[Storage](#) Chapter 7 discussed how storage holds data, instructions, and information for future use. Users depend on storage devices to provide access to their storage media for years and decades to come.

[Operating Systems and Utility Programs](#) Chapter 8 defined an operating system and discussed the

functions common to most operating systems. It also introduced several utility programs.

- [Communications and Networks](#) Chapter 9 provided an overview of communications terminology and applications. It also discussed how to join computers into a network, allowing them to communicate and share resources such as hardware, software, data, and information.
- [Database Management](#) Chapter 10 discussed how data and information are valuable assets to an organization. The chapter also presented methods for maintaining high-quality data and assessing the quality of valuable information.
- [Computer Security, Ethics, and Privacy](#) Chapter 11 identified potential computer risks and the safeguards that schools, businesses, and individuals can implement to minimize these risks. Internet security risks and safeguards also were discussed.
- [Information System Development](#) Chapter 12 discussed the phases in the system development cycle including planning, analysis, design, implementation, and support.
- [Programming Languages and Program Development](#) Chapter 13 explained various programming languages used to write and develop computer programs. It also presented a variety of Web development and multimedia development tools.
- [Enterprise Computing](#) Chapter 14 reviewed the special computing requirements for an enterprise-sized organization. You learned about the information system needs of various users within an organization, as well as the technologies suited for enterprise computing.
- [Computer Careers and Certification](#) Chapter 15 discusses the strong demand for computer and IT professionals. You learned about a variety of computer-related careers, as well as educational courses, job searches, career planning, professional organizations, and professional growth.