

Creative Computing from Scratch™
A Workshop for New Programmers

FAQ:

Q: What is “a basic understanding of computers”?

A: Students should be able to navigate through folders to open files, and use the internet.

Q: My child has never programmed. Is this course appropriate?

A: Yes! The course is designed especially for beginners.

Q: My child has already taken some programming, can he/she take this class?

A: Of course, but she/he might not find it as challenging as the new programmers will. If she/he has already used Scratch, then this might not be a good course for him or her. Instead, you might consider enrolling your child in the Animation and Robotics course from July 11-15, or the 3D Game Creation course from July 25-29.

Q: What is Scratch?

A: Scratch was developed primarily as a language for learning programming principles in an engaging way. It is similar to the languages Alice and Logo. Programming occurs by building sequences of blocks that tell the computer what to do. It's a graphical interface and easy to learn. The programs created are generally graphical and often have animations. They also include sound. Scratch is not a commercial language used by professional programmers.

Q: Can I use Scratch at home?

A: Yes. It's free and runs on PCs and Macs. Your child will be able to show you her/his work on your home computer and she/he can continue to learn and use Scratch after the course is over.

Q: Does my child need to bring a computer?

A: No. All class activities will take place in USD computer labs.

Q: Will there be snacks?

A: Not provided, for safety concerns. Please pack a small snack for your child to have during our mid-morning break!

Q: I'd like to see my child's work? How can I do that?

A: On Friday there will be an open house pizza party where all the students will demonstrate their projects. You are encouraged to come to that event.

Q: Who is teaching the course?

A: The lead instructor is Dr. Diane Hoffoss, a member of USD's Math and Computer Science faculty. She will be assisted by USD college mathematics and computer science students with experience in Scratch and other programming activities.