MCS Data Structures Proficiency Exam Quick Start Guide

Here are "quick start" instructions for starting the MCS Data Structures Proficiency Exam (DS Exam). If you are having trouble getting to the exam (e.g., logging in to PrairieLearn, not finding the DS Exam), you should make sure you have properly gone through all the steps listed here.

These instructions have been condensed mainly from the more complete instruction video located here:

https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_98sr4m91

(This video also contains some helpful tips on how to use the exam interface.)

This page also contains some information on the exam, e.g., on how to sign up for and and schedule it:

https://cs.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate/applications-process-requirements/data-structures-proficiency-exam

1. Log in to PrairieLearn (https://prairielearn.engr.illinois.edu/)

   Note that on this page, there are three log in buttons:

     Sign in with Illinois
     Sign in with Google
     Sign in with Microsoft

   You should click the one that matches the email address you're going to log in with; e.g., if you have an @gmail.com email address, you should use the "Sign in with Google" button (typically, you should not use the "Sign in with Illinois" button).

2. Click on "Add or remove courses"

3. Click on "Add course" next to:
   "CS 225: Data Structures and Algorithms, MCS Data Structures Proficiency Exam"
   (this name may change)
   Confirm adding the course

4. Click on the PrairieLearn logo to go back to the main screen

5. Click on the course listed (the name will match that in step 3)

6. You will see a list of assessments; click on the assessment for the MCS Exam (the full name is currently something like "MCS Data Structures Proficiency Exam", similar to what's shown in step 3 above)

7. Have the proctor enter the password

8. Click on "Start assessment"