Introduction to Computer Programming

CSCI-UA 2

Functions

Encapsulating Logic

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**Functions**

Groups of statements that can be run more than once in a program

Reusable chunks of code

Take input, provide output

Can be reused in a variety of contexts

Maximize code reuse, minimize code redundancy

Encapsulate logic, splitting complex systems into manageable parts
Calling Functions

\texttt{type(3.7)}

- **Function name**
- **Arguments passed into function**
- **Return Value**

( ) tells Python to execute the function

Even if a function takes no input, the brackets are still required

Some functions do not return a value
Defining Functions

Just like writing a Python program but with some extra syntax

Function header:

• Begins with `def`
• Followed by name of function
• Function parameter list
• Ends with a `:`
**Documentation String**

Doc String

Optionally follows function header

Explains what function will do

May include example(s)

Almost always good to include for clarity and as a reminder
Function Body

All the code that follows the header

Simply an indented block of code with necessary statements

This code can use the variables from the function header

Function should return a value with the keyword return

After return, Python jumps out of the function and back to the program
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