

Is NSS worth it?

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Motivation...

- ...For choosing NSS:
 - Anecdotal NSS success stories
 - Geographic location
- ...For choosing this capstone topic:
 - Post pandemic lockdown culture, increasing number of remote opportunities
 - Remote opportunities open up a much larger pool of coding schools and bootcamps to choose from
 - Is NSS still as attractive to prospective students who may have this much larger pool of options to choose from?

Data Questions

Are prospective students incentivized to choose NSS over other bootcamps, if given the opportunity?

How well does NSS and its competitors prepare their students for success?

What are those competitors excelling at where NSS is not?

Bootcamp Comparison: First Steps

- Criteria for selecting a bootcamp to compare NSS to:
 - In the United States
 - Similar program structure (Full Stack Web Development Bootcamp)
 - Council on Integrity in Results Reporting (CIRR) certified
 - City type
 - Tech Hubs
 - Immature Tech Industries

Selected Bootcamps: Up and Coming Hubs

- Tech Elevator
 - Detroit, Michigan
- Hack Reactor
 - Austin, Texas
- Project Shift
 - Durham, North Carolina
- Hack Upstate
 - Syracuse, New York
- Codeup
 - San Antonio, Texas
- Nashville Software School
 - Nashville Tennessee

Selected Bootcamps: Tech Hubs

- Code Platoon
 - Chicago, Illinois
- Codesmith
 - Los Angeles, California
- Epicodus
 - Seattle, Washington
- Full Stack Academy
 - New York, New York
- Launch Academy
 - Boston, Massachusetts

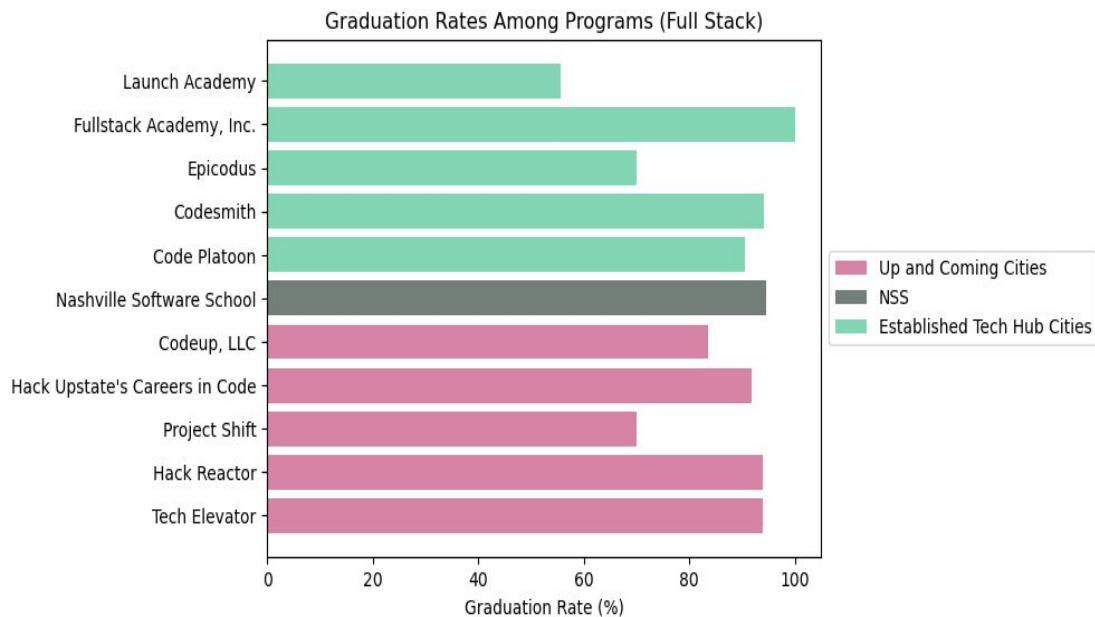
What do prospective students care about?

- Graduation Rates
- Employment Rates
- Salaries for Fresh Graduates
- Tuition and Duration of Program

General Assumptions and Notes on Methodologies

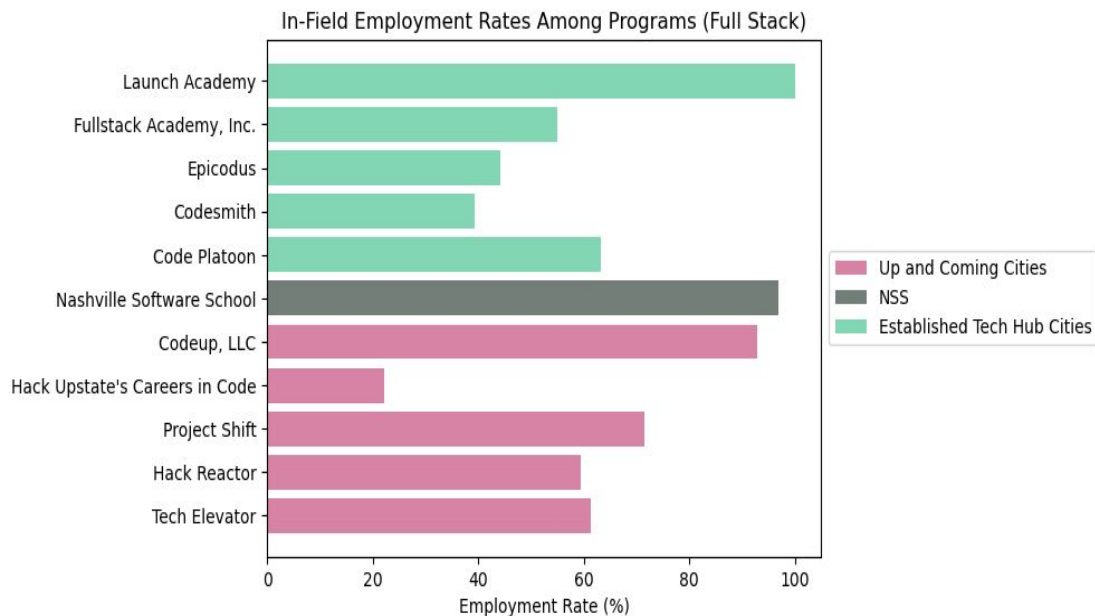
- All programs are assumed to produce graduates with roughly comparable skill sets
- All data used comes from the 2019-2020 OR 2020-2021 periods, if '19-'20 data was unavailable
- All programs are full-time
- Salary data is given for graduates who found in-field employment in the cities which host these camps. However, all programs examined are currently solely online and do not restrict their applications to local applicants in all cases except for Hack Upstate Careers in Code (Syracuse, NY), generally removing the aforementioned geographic barrier

Graduation Rates



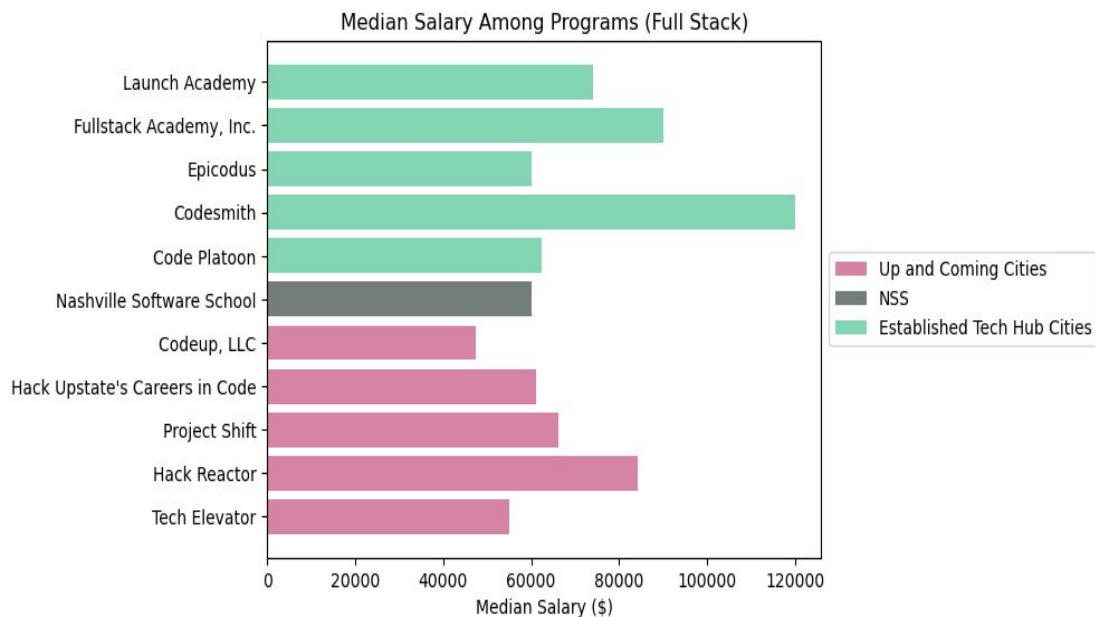
- NSS has the second highest graduation rate overall
- Our graduation rate is more inline with the “up-and-coming” average, which only slightly exceeds the “tech hub cities” average

Employment Rates



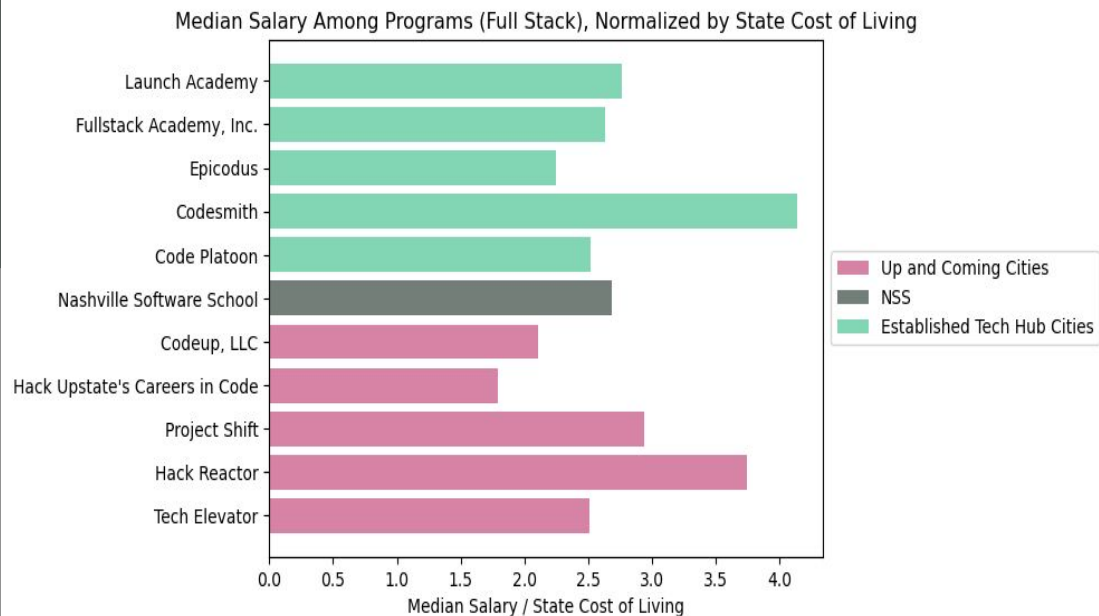
- Rates are calculated 6 months post graduation for all programs
- NSS exceeds all “up and coming” programs in graduate job placements
- Average of “up and coming” programs significantly exceeds “tech hub” counterparts

Median Salaries



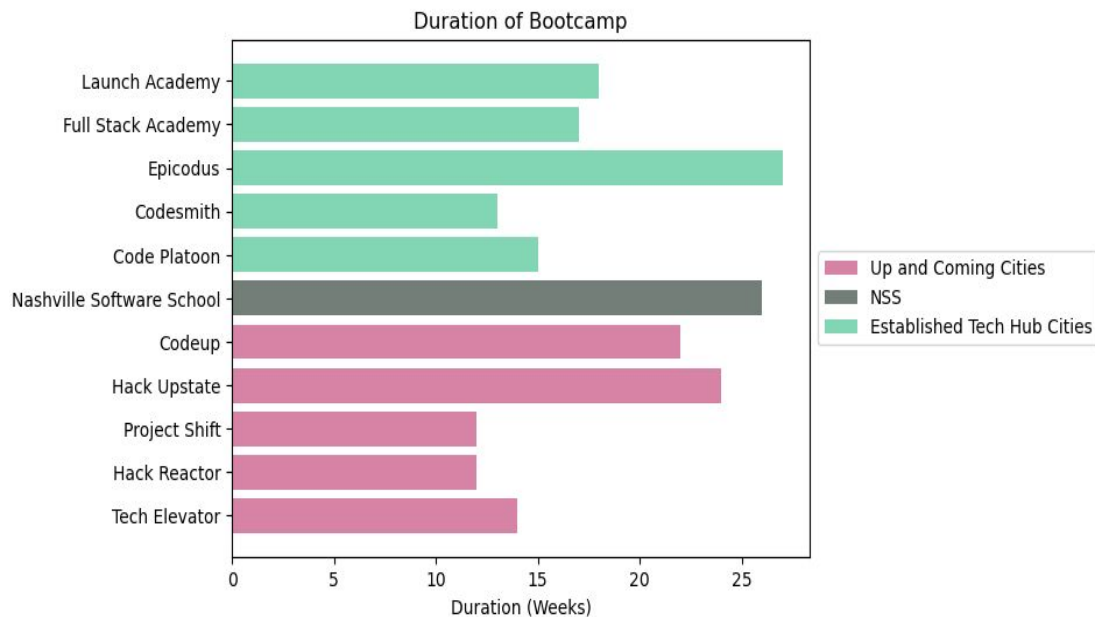
- NSS's median starting salary was about on par with "up and coming" program average
- "Tech hub" starting salaries skewed higher than "up and coming" counterparts as expected

Median Salaries



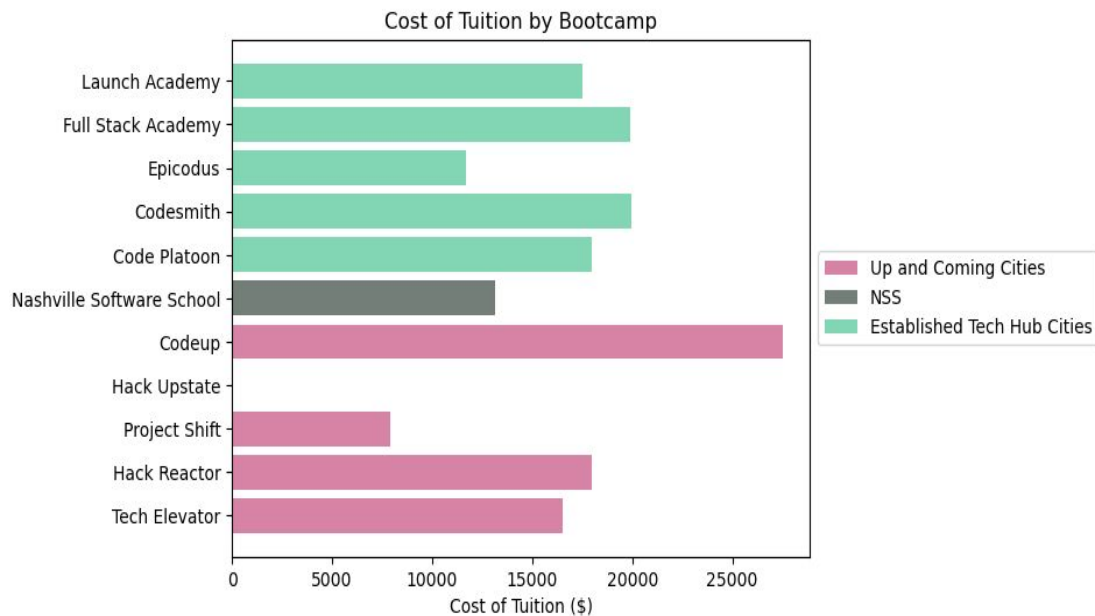
- Median Salaries divided by state costs of living may skew ratios up or down depending on state demographics
- Still, NSS's ratio is not particularly remarkable, but accounting for Nashville's low cost of living, places the school much higher in ranking than before

Tuition and Duration



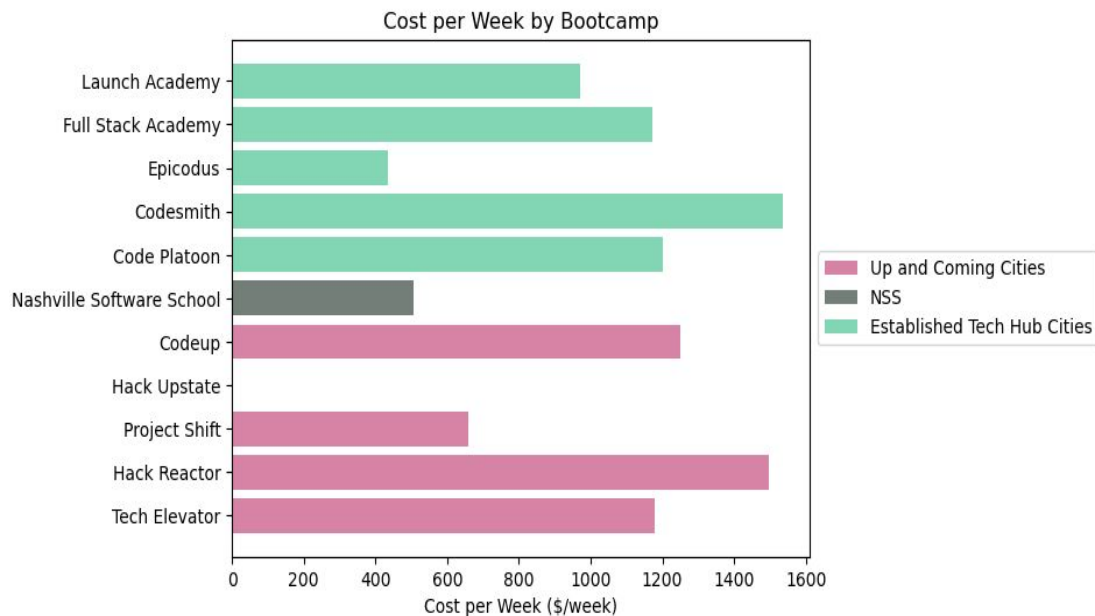
- NSS has the second longest full stack web development program, beaten out only by Epicodus (26 and 27 weeks respectively), exceeding the average for both groups

Tuition and Duration



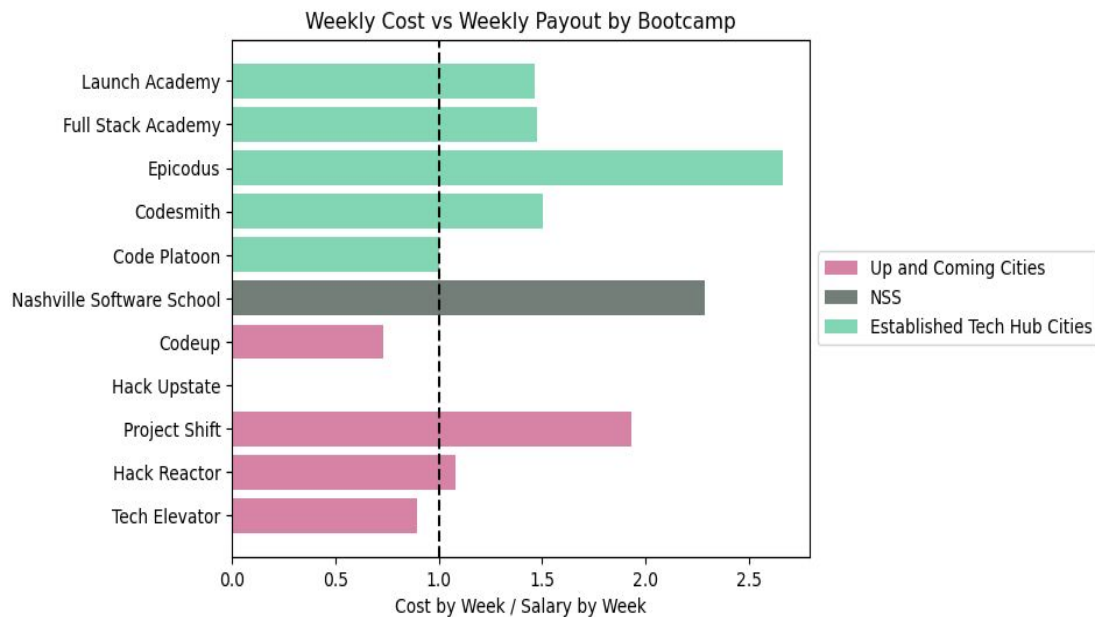
- NSS's tuition is comparably low relative to both groups
- Specific Internal factors can be identified to explain the low costs of Project Shift and Hack Upstate
- Tech hubs had a higher average tuition, as expected

Tuition and Duration



- NSS had the second lowest, non-zero cost per week to attend their program
- Cost per week average by city type was roughly equivalent
 - “Up and coming” average skewed lower by Hack Upstate

Tuition and Duration



- Nearly impossible to answer the question “Was it worth it” quantitatively
- Ratio > 1 indicates median weekly earnings exceed weekly costs of attendance for each bootcamp
- NSS greatly surpasses most other programs, with the exception of Epicodus once again

Conclusion

- NSS performed very strongly in graduation rates, employment rates, low cost/week to attend, high weekly payout, but had comparatively mediocre median starting salaries and a long program duration
 - Tennessee's lower cost of living may account for its median salary
 - Program duration exceeds overall average by nearly 10 weeks
- NSS is the only program to perform strongly across the board
- Was NSS worth it? Yes!