

Welcome to Grace Hopper & Fullstack Academy!

June 4, 2018



WiFi: Fullst@ck

I want to Welcome everyone to Grace Hopper! We have a lot of important and exciting information to go through today, and I want to start by introducing you to the main players on your team! INTROS: Karen, Jess + Michele

Before we get starting, I'm going to answer one of your most burning questions now: What is the wifi? It's Fullstack student and the password is at the bottom of the slide.

Grace Hopper History

Our mission is to Empower
women in tech through
affordable education, quality
instruction, and
individualized mentorship

- First cohort: January 2016
- Number of cohorts started in first year: 6
- Graduates in the first year: 88

**“A ship in port is safe, but that is
not what ships are built for. Sail out
to sea and do new things”
- Grace Hopper
(adapted from John Shedd)**



Today may be your first day, but many cohorts have passed through these classrooms before you. You're following in the footsteps of some pretty amazing women. Grace Hopper started in January 2016. During that year, we launched 6 cohorts and graduated 88 students. Since then, interest in the program has grown exponentially but we've kept the admissions process really selective. You've all worked really hard to be here so please recognize what you've already accomplished as you continue to navigate through this journey.

Agenda

- The Road Ahead
- Daily Schedule
- Expectations
- Keys to Success
- Ice Breakers
- Key Players
- Community Norms
- Class Policies
- Plan for remainder of Today

Karen will now provide you with an overview of what to expect in the coming weeks. Then we will outline what a typical day will look like. We will go over our expectations for you and share some tips for being successful in the program. Then, we will take a break and mix it up with an icebreaker. When we regroup, we'll discuss our community norms, review class and campus policies, and tell you about the structure of the rest of the day.

Junior Phase

- Foundations
- **Junior Phase (Now, Weeks 1 - 6)**
 - Lectures, Workshops, Checkpoints, Pair Projects, Activities
 - CS Saturdays
- **Review Week (Week 7)**
 - Solidify Junior Phase concepts
 - Senior Checkpoint
 - Plan for projects

So we've already checked one to-do off your list! Now you're in Junior phase. Over the next six weeks, you'll attend lectures, complete workshops and checkpoints, and attend activities like meet-ups and hackathons. On Saturdays, you can dial in for CS Saturdays, modules on specific topics like security, etc. All Fullstack classes are mandatory but the material taught during CS Saturday will not be on any checkpoint and we do not take attendance on Saturdays. If you have to miss a CS Saturday it will not count toward your attendance records. These are available to you all as an additional supportive measure. During Review week, you'll take the Senior Checkpoint in order to then move on to the next phase (Senior phase). After the checkpoint, you get a little break to catch up on sleep, review concepts, apply some increased self-care, and think about your project for the next phase.

Senior Phase

- Senior Phase (Weeks 8 -13)
 - *Projects:*
 - **Grace Shopper (1.5 weeks)**
 - **Stackathon (.5 weeks)**
 - **Capstone Project (3.5 weeks)**
 - *Hiring/Technical Interview Preparation*
 - **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE JOB SEARCH PHASE QUITE YET**

Once you pass the senior checkpoint, you're then cleared to move on to Senior Phase. This phase is less lectured than Jr. phase, and more project-based. You'll build Grace Shopper, your very own ecommerce site, participate in a hackathon, and round everything out with your capstone project. During the last week of class, you'll present your project on Demo Day and practice interviewing with real companies on Hiring Day.

General Schedule: **Weeks 1-6**

- **9/9:30-10am:** Morning Review: Takeaways + Q&A (optional)
- **10-1pm:** Lectures, Labs, Pair Exercise, Pair Projects
- **1-2:30pm:** Mid-day break: Lunch, Gym/Walks, Self Review, 1:1s
- **2:30-6:00pm:** Lectures, Labs, Pair Exercises/Projects
- **6:00-9pm:** Homework, Study, Events, Guest Speakers, Home..

During the first six weeks of the program, you'll arrive at campus around 9am for coffee and self-review, where you'll do problem sets through a platform called CodeWars. You'll have lecture and workshop from 10am-1pm and then you'll have a break from 1-2:30pm. You can use this break time to eat lunch, go to the gym or for a walk, do more review, or have 1:1s with your instructors, fellows, program lead, etc. From 2:30-6:30pm, you've got more lecture and workshops, and then from 6:30-9pm on any given night, you'll have time to go study, attend events, listen to guest speakers, or just go home and rest.

Educational Process

- Education in jr. phase consists of units
 - Weekly Units
 - Power Monday
 - Project Friday
 - Review
 - Daily Units:
 - Lectures, Labs & Pair Exercises on a new topic
 - Homework (Review videos)
- All lectures are recorded
 - ▣ Use recordings for reference & review
 - ▣ Possible technical issues

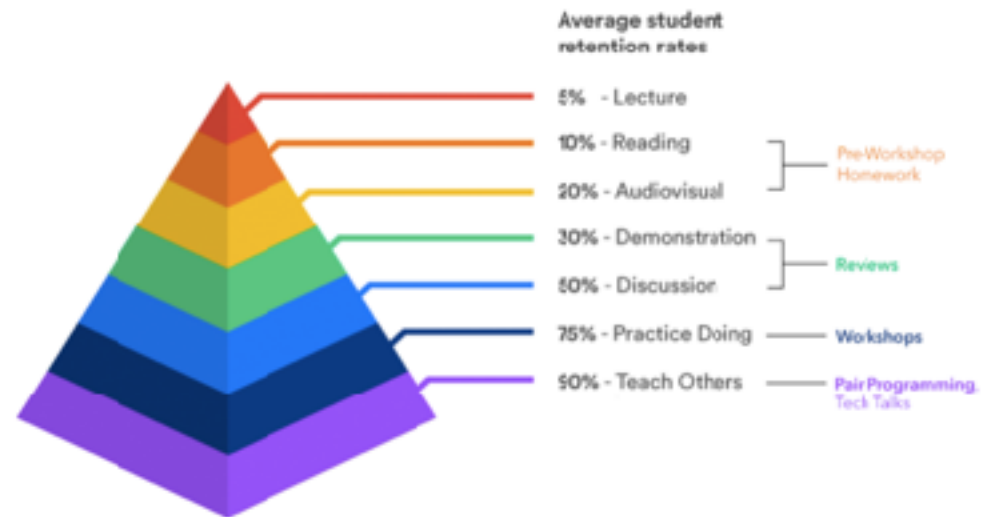
Over the course of the program, you'll have access to a lot of resources. Once a workshop is opened up by the instructors, it's available to you all the time via LearnDot. Lecture and instructor reviews are also recorded and available for future reference. You'll complete the workshops in pairs; we will give more of an introduction to pair programming later, but it's a great way to talk through your thought process as you solve problems and further reinforce your understanding. If you have questions, you can log help tickets or book 1:1 office hours with instructors or fellows through LearnDot.

Educational Process

- Pair Exercises/Projects completed in pairs: Pair Programming
- Instructional Team on each workshop: Instructor and Fellows
- Help Tickets and Office Hours - 1:1 help and check-ins (LearnDot)

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Education Process Pyramid



Here's a little visual of how these activities break down. We teach using a variety of different methods to help the material stick and through this visual you can begin to understand the breakdown of where your time will be spent. We place significant emphasis on a student's ability to teach other's the concepts discussed during class. This will not only be helpful to the peer you are assisting, but will also work to reinforce your own understanding of these complex concepts.

Grace Hopper Academic Support

- **Grace Hopper Fellows (Learning Teams)**
- **Help Tickets** - LearnDot
 - We are here to guide you
 - Productive struggle
 - Clear descriptions of what you are trying to do
 - vs. what is actually happening
- **Office Hours**



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Learning to program involves a lot of productive struggle, of sticking with a problem and being persistent through the process. But if you've reached a point where you've exhausted your strategies and are spinning your wheels, ask for help! Your fellows are a great source of help and advice. They've been in your shoes and know what you're going through. Each of you will be assigned to a fellow as part of a smaller learning team. You'll have lunch with this team on a weekly basis, and you can request 1:1 office hours with your fellow to ask additional questions.

If you get stuck during a workshop, you can ask questions by logging help tickets through LearnDot. Again, struggling a bit helps you learn, so don't submit a help ticket when you first encounter something confusing. But when your struggle stops being productive and you're at an impasse, that's a good time to reach out.

Something to keep in mind though, is that fellows are here to guide you, not give you the answers. By providing a clear explanation of the steps you're trying to take, your fellows will get a better understanding of your thought process and try to identify errors in your logic. They may ask you further questions to help you uncover the problem yourself. The process can take a little getting used to, so be patient as you acclimate.

Help Tickets and Class Tools

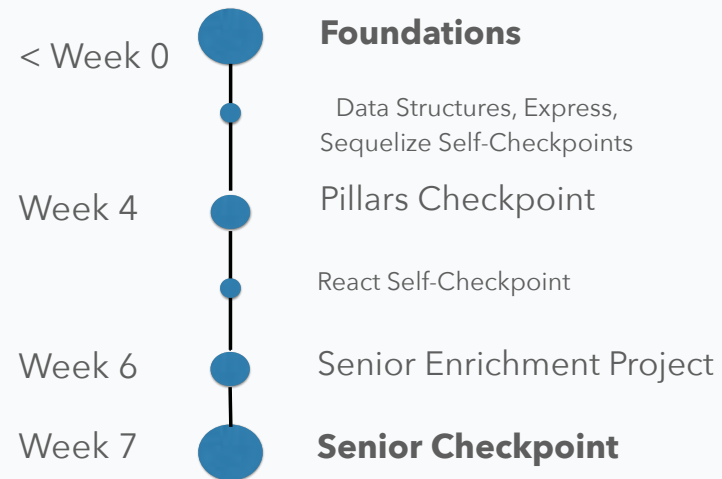
- LearnDot
 - Help Tickets, Office Hours
 - Workshop and Pair Feedback forms
- Slack
- Google Calendar
- Group Emails
- Github Repository



One thing that you'll learn over the next couple of weeks is when to submit a help ticket. Struggling a bit helps you learn, so don't submit a help ticket when you first encounter something confusing. We expect some struggle. But when your struggle stops being productive and you're at an impasse, that's a good time to reach out.

Since I mentioned LearnDot as one of the tools you'll use, I want to touch on a few of its functions and discuss a couple other tools. LearnDot allows you to log help tickets and book office hours. You'll also complete workshops in LearnDot and fill out pair feedback forms when you're done. We use Slack and group emails to communicate and adhere closely to the Google Calendar. Your whole schedule for the next 13 weeks is in there, so take a look when you have a sec.

Academic Checkpoints



Here's a visual to show you how these checkpoints are weighted. As you can see, the Foundations and Senior checkpoint are really important because they determine if you can move on to the next phase.

If a student underperforms on this checkpoint the Academic Team will evaluate the students' academic progress based on their Senior Enrichment Project and Review Checkpoint submissions. If the Academic Team believes that the student is not yet ready for the Senior Phase we will provide them with a set of recommended options to move forward in the program based on the student's academic career at Fullstack. These options may include replaying the Junior Phase for an additional fee.

Academic Integrity

- * Do not cheat on your checkpoint and do not plagiarize code on your projects
- * Doing so will result in expulsions

Keys to Success

- The next 13 weeks = High Leverage Time.
- **Priorities:**
 - Learning & Teaching
 - Writing Code!
 - Taking Care of Your Health
- **Maintain Positivity**
- **Participate in Hackathons**
- **Technical Blogging & Side Projects**

The next several weeks are going to be pretty intense, so we keep your list of priorities short and focused. You're going to learn, teach, and write a lot of code.

Ice Breaker!

- **ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS!**
- Pair up with a *new* person and play 1 round of “rock, paper, scissors!”
 - Person who Loses: Cheerleader for the winner!
 - Person who Wins: Compete in 1 round with another ‘winner’
- REPEAT!
 - **Until there are only 2 winners left**
 - Face-Off!

I’ve just thrown a lot of information at you, so now let’s do an ice breaker. I want you to pair up with a new person that you haven’t talked to before and I’m going to give you 3 minutes to interview them. Get to know their name, where they’re from, what they were doing before Grace Hopper, and what they love. At the end of three minutes, we’ll switch roles. We’ll repeat this a few times.

People

- Grace Hopper cohorts are on the 25th Floor
 - 1804-GH seniors
 - **1806-GH juniors (YOU!)**
- WDF Seniors share the floor with you
- Fullstack Academy cohorts on the 11th Floor
- Fullstack/Grace Hopper staff is mostly on the 11th floor (it's bigger)
- Evenings: Events, Part-Time Classes, Guests, Other Students



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During your first week, you're going to meet a lot of humans. You might forget a lot of names and you'll slowly learn your way around campus. That's okay, that's just part of the process. The Grace Hopper cohorts are on the this floor. Over there are the 1706 seniors. You'll also see the fellows for junior and senior phase floating around. In about a week, the Web Development Fellows will arrive on campus. This is a coed program sponsored by the Tech Talent Pipeline and is designed to help qualifying New Yorkers with minimal coding experience become fullstack developers. They're going to have space over there. We'll share bathrooms, the kitchen, and occasionally some lectures, but the rest of the time we'll be doing our own respective things.

Down on the 11th floor, you'll find the Fullstack cohorts and most of the Fullstack staff; that's because that floor is a bit larger. At night, more people may be in here to attend events, to study, or to attend our part-time Flex or Bootcamp Prep classes.

Grace Hopper Key Players

Instructors



Karen MacPherson



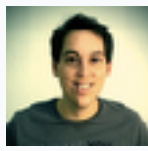
Jess Bracht



John McDonald



Matt Short



Cássio Zen
Head of Academics

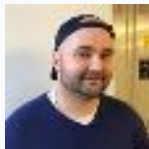
Other Key People



Michele Cantos
Director of Grace Hopper



Jessica Wein
Program Lead



Nick Tucker
Academic Operations Manager



So let's introduce our staff. Here's our lovely academics team. Our team of instructors rotates between programs, so an instructor might teach Grace Hopper for one cohort and then switch to Fullstack for another cohort.

Career Success



Ceren
Head of Career Success



Rachel Fogel



Natalie Giuliano



Jacqueline Ore

Once you head into senior phase, you'll start meeting regularly with our Career Success team. They'll give you feedback on your resume, conduct mock interviews, and help you get ready to meet with recruiters on Hiring Day. We also have a whole module in LearnDot dedicated to getting you ready for the job search. You'll revamp your resume, spruce up your online presence, and create a structured to-do list for your job search.

Founders



Nimit Maru



David Yang

*Nimit and David work across **academics**, **admissions** and **career success**, making sure every part of the Fullstack/Grace Hopper experience meets their high standards. They love hearing your comments and feedback so please say hello anytime.*



You'll also see Nimit and David on campus. They're the cofounders of Fullstack and they launched Grace Hopper to specifically address the gender gap in tech. They're awesome and you'll get to know them more during senior phase, but if you see them around, say hi! They're really receptive to feedback and definitely want to know how you're finding the program.

Now, I don't have a slide for myself, but you're probably asking yourself, Meg, what do you do here? I'm the Dean, and so I do a little bit of everything. My three areas of focus are making sure we're recruiting strong students, ensuring they have a good experience, and building strong ties in the field so we can make introductions and connect you with employers. While I most likely can't help with your technical questions, I can help you if you have questions about the program, are having a family emergency, or are just feeling stressed and overwhelmed. I also love diving into the job search process, so if you want to practice your pitch or get feedback on your resume, let me know! I'll set up weekly office hours so we can chat.

Community Norms

- Be **patient**
- Ask **all** questions
- **Trust** the process
- **Don't rank yourself or others**
- **Help** each other

You're about to embark on an incredibly rigorous journey so be patient with yourself.

You're not going to get everything on the first try, but that's okay. Don't be afraid to ask questions when you don't understand something.

Override the impulse to rank yourself or others in the program; we all learn at different rates.

If you're struggling with a concept and feel like you're never going to get it, trust the process. You'll see the concept again and your brain will continue to process it as you learn other things. You're going to get there.

And finally, help each other. This isn't a competition. If you think you understand a concept, help explain it to someone who doesn't. That way, you'll clarify their questions and solidify your own knowledge. When that happens, everyone is successful.

Community Norms

- Maintain professionalism
- No subtle (or not-so-subtle) -isms: racism, sexism, ageism, etc.
- Apologize when necessary
- Treat each other with respect
- Be mindful of your own biases

We pride ourselves on creating a supportive learning environment, so our community norms are extremely important. We expect you to be professional and treat each other with respect.

Everyone here comes from a variety of different backgrounds, and that diversity makes us stronger. We don't tolerate -isms of any kind: racism, sexism, ageism, etc. Be aware of your own biases and if you make a mistake, own it and apologize.

Class Policies

- Attendance
 - Daily attendance is required during class hours
 - 4 lates = 1 absence
 - Sign in on LearnDot to be marked present
 - Excused absences
 - Email jessica.wein@fullstackacademy.com if you are absent AND slack your instructors/teaching fellows
 - Make up work is your responsibility
 - It's easy to fall behind, don't be absent or tardy!

Our program moves incredibly quickly, so attendance is important. Daily attendance is required during class hours; each morning, you need to sign on in LearnDot to mark yourself as present. Be on time, 4 late check ins add up to one absence. Now obviously there are some circumstances where you may need to be out. If you're too sick to participate. Please stay offline. But you need to give us advanced notice; don't just wait until 8:59 to call it in. Email mel@fullstackacademy.com if you're absent and be sure to make up the work.

Today's Plan

- Breakfast
- Orientation-I
- Ice-breaker
- Orientation-II
- Lecture: Intro to Junior Phase
- Lecture: Data Structures
- Lunch
- Workshop: Data Structures
- Keycards and photos



So let's get started! For the rest of the day, you'll listen to lectures to give you more detail about junior phase and data structures, take a break for lunch, head back for a workshop on data structures, and then you'll receive your keycards and get your headshot taken before you leave.