IBM **Accelerate**
Talent Identification Program

Summer 2024 Welcome Packet
Software Track

IBM Accelerate Program Overview

Congratulations on joining IBM Accelerate! Throughout the 8 weeks, you will be immersed in interactive trainings to develop both technical and foundational skills needed to succeed in your designated career track. IBM Accelerate will equip you with the knowledge to accelerate your career and the confidence to apply to future internships or full-time job opportunities.

Please find below important pertinent information regarding the program, including software programs to download, the complete schedule, expectations, etc.

Virtual Program Tools

Slack

As part of IBM Accelerate, you'll be given the opportunity to network and communicate with IBMers and peers. The best way to start getting to know one another is through Slack. Before the start of the program, you'll be sent an invite (toward mid-May) to download Slack and join different channels to start communicating with others in the program (one will be all participants, and one will be just members of your specific track). If you're not familiar with Slack, it's a platform that allows for group messaging, video and personal text chats, and document sharing.

Learn more about Slack [here](#)! Haven't used Slack before? Learn the best [etiquette tips](#) for Slack.

WebEx

Cisco WebEx combines audio conference and web-meeting capabilities, enabling you to share your screen and files, use a shared whiteboard, chat, set up Q&A sessions, and record your meetings. You can attend meetings on your computer, from a mobile device, by phone, or even using a video system. Download the browser plugin or tool for your local system [here](#)!

In advance of your first track session, please consider bookmarking our virtual backgrounds [here](#) to use live throughout the sessions. All participants are strongly encouraged to have their cameras on during both Monday and Wednesday sessions, but if you do not feel comfortable or have an exception or certain circumstances, we understand.

Expectations

Attendance

Attendance will be recorded each session; you are able to miss (1) foundational skills and (1) track sessions and can still complete the program successfully, but we encourage you to attend all classes as they build upon each other.

This attendance policy was put in place to allow for any holidays (Juneteenth, 4th of July, Eid al-Adha, etc.), emergencies, vacations, or life events that may conflict with the set dates and times that might prevent you from being able to be present all 8 weeks.

If you cannot attend a Monday night session, please send a Slack message to Dimitra Mourikes in advance.

Participation

We will expect you to be an active learner by participating in group sessions and answering questions via chat. Having your camera on whenever possible during each session is also strongly recommended.

Networking

Throughout the program, you will have an opportunity to be matched with current IBMers and IBM Accelerate peers to network and gain more insight into your areas of interest. Through Ten Thousand Coffees, you'll connect with mentors around career goals and shared interests through a simple click. To get the most out of IBM Accelerate, it's highly recommended you engage with this additional component of the experience. Be on the lookout for additional details in the coming weeks to learn more about how to join and start networking!

Program Dates

Foundational Skills Sessions Mondays, 7pm – 8pm EST	Career Track Sessions Wednesdays, 6pm – 8pm EST
June 3	June 5
June 10	June 12
June 17	June 19
June 24	June 26
July 1	July 3
July 8	July 10
July 15	July 17
July 22 (Graduation)	July 24

Foundational Skills Sessions

Foundational Skills sessions will help you build the skills needed to succeed in both college and your career. In today's world, it's not just technical skills that will help you be successful, but the foundational skills as well. These offerings will be different than what you might have learned from college/university as they will focus on skills from an employer's perspective.

June 3: Navigating the Corporate World
June 10: Networking & Mentorship
June 17: Personal Branding & LinkedIn Profile Refinement
June 24: Job Applications & Résumés
July 1: Interviewing
July 8: Bringing Your Whole Self to Work
July 15: Ask Me Anything (Accelerate Alumni Panel)
July 22: Graduation

Career Track Sessions – Software

Software participants will be exposed to IBM's most innovative Software Developers, Technical Leaders, and Master Inventors, and grow their programming skills while enhancing their programming competencies and understanding of coding assessment platforms. Participants will expand their ability to sharpen coding logic skills, think critically, and solve problems.

This track is designed for someone interested in: data structures and algorithms, front-end and back-end development fundamentals, version control systems, application security, coding assessment platforms, software development lifecycle (SDLC), and coding logic. Specific topics include JavaScript, React, Styling, Node JS, Generative AI, Security, and Cloud Native Development.

June 5: Front End Technology Introduction
June 12: JavaScript, React & Styling
June 19: Event Handling, Synchronicity & Testing
June 26: Client-Side vs Server-Side, Back-end Intro (including Rest APIs) & Web App Security
July 3: Generative AI
July 10: Functional Back End Hosts, SDKs & Design Patterns
July 17: Security & X-Force
July 24: Cloud Native Development

Badge Criteria
Participants who complete Accelerate by meeting the attendance criteria and passing their Track assessment will receive a virtual badge to add to their LinkedIn Profile and résumé! The Badge highlights the following:

Track Skills Criteria: The badge earner has demonstrated a deep understanding and skills in the following programming competencies: data structures and algorithms, front-end and back-end development fundamentals, version control systems, application security, coding assessment platforms, software development lifecycle (SDLC), and coding logic.

Foundational Skills Criteria: The badge earner has also developed foundational career skills on the following topics: networking, mentorship, job applications, resume building, personal branding, interviewing, and being authentic at work. The individual badge earner exhibits internship and/or career readiness.

Attendance Criteria: An Accelerate badge earner will have missed no more than one Monday and one Wednesday evening session. The Accelerate Program Team will be tracking weekly attendance and active participation.

Participation Criteria: The badge earner has demonstrated engagement with the course material and ongoing skill progression through active participation in weekly sessions. Participation can be reflected in weekly quizzes or polls, commenting or asking questions during discussions, collaborating with peers in small group sessions, or taking advantage of optional networking opportunities.

Engagement Criteria: Complete weekly group-based labs and quizzes or attend office hours during the 8-week program.

Course Content
In addition to participants' existing foundational and intermediate technical skills, the IBM Accelerate – Software Developer track will cover the following skills, competencies, & tools:
- Data Structures and Algorithms
- UI/UX Design and Development
- Application Security
- Version Control Systems
- Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC)

- Generative AI
- Cloud Native Development
- Agile Methodology
- Coding Logic and Programming
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Teamwork
- GitHub
- HackerRank
- Mural

Learn about Us!

IBMers are passionate about doing work that matters for our clients and for our communities. We are passionate about issues facing society and using our resources to make a meaningful impact.

To learn more, check out IBM's Impact Report for Environmental, Social, and Governance.

Important Note:

To log in to all of the sessions and to join the Accelerate Slack channel, you must use the email address you applied to the program with (the one this welcome packet was sent to!).

Checklist for Prior to Day 1:

- ☐ Download WebEx to your computer.
- ☐ Download a Code IDE in your computer: VS Code
- ☐ Join the IBM Accelerate Program Slack channel and participate by engaging with upcoming posts- this will help us get to know you!
- ☐ Verify you have the calendar invitation/login information and ensure you review the time zone. As a reminder, all sessions will be held in Eastern Time. Invitation will be sent to you 1 week prior to the first session.
- ☐ Check to see that your audio and video are working on your device.
- ☐ Be camera ready!
- ☐ Review any track resources noted in this packet and recommended pre-work (as applicable)
- ☐ Come ready to learn and to Accelerate your Career!
- ☐ Haven't had the chance to share your news? Use this GIF on social media to let others know what you're most excited for during IBM Accelerate and tag us using #IBMAccelerate!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us by emailing askaccelerate@ibm.com.