

What to Learn Before You Learn to Program

**Or, "how I learned to stop worrying and <3 the
computer"**

Don't be afraid

- Welcome to your first day of learning to program!
- Believe it or not, every developer ever had this day
- Don't be nervous, we're here to support and help you on your journey!

Things to keep in mind

- People learn at different paces - just because the person next to you gets the concept, doesn't mean you necessarily will
- Be bullish getting the help you need early on - not in a way to disrupt other students or the instructor, but make sure you don't "fall off the boat"
- There will always be workshopping time in every class - this is where you should ask the most questions

How to research programming problems

- Getting help from your instructor isn't the only way to increase your learning potential
- Before asking an instructor, try helping yourself - then don't be afraid to get help if you need it!
- Let's take a look together at solving a basic programming problem and how we could tackle looking this up online:
- "How do I change the text color of an HTML element on screen?"

Be ambitious

- Just because you understood what happened in class tonight and were able to write a basic web page...
- ...why not go home and create 3 more?
- Programming is one thing in life that you'll get back what you put into it
- Extra practice is a great way to solidify the fundamentals
- If you're not coding right now, somebody else probably is...always be working on projects

The best way to learn is to teach others

- Outside of your instructors and the internet, one of your best resources is sitting right next to you - your fellow students!
- Asking your fellow students how to do something is mutually beneficial
- One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it to somebody else - so help each other and everyone will benefit!

Paired Programming

- Paired programming is a great way to learn!
- Tackle a problem with another student, take turns "driving" the machine for 5-10 minutes at a time
- Two heads are better than one.
- You're almost always welcome to tackle problems and exercises in pairs.

Re-do assignments

- At NYCDA, students are encouraged to resubmit assignments for further instructor review
- This is a great way for you to add on to your knowledge! Your instructor will grade your assignment and tell you exactly what to change/how to learn from your mistakes.
- You should aim to have a 10/10 on every assignment by the end of the course - there's no reason not to and all it can do is help

Put in the time

- We understand all of you have jobs, families, and commitments outside of this program.
- To get the maximum benefit of the program however, ensure that you put in at least 3-5 hours a week outside of class to make sure you're keeping up with the material

Have fun!

- Programming can make you extremely frustrated, but never forget that the ultimate goal is to give you an amazing toolset to further express yourself to your fellow human beings.
- Keep in mind this ultimate goal as you spend long evenings coding and solving problems =)
- We're always here for you along the way. E-mail zach@nycda.com with questions or concerns or just step into our office - our door is always open!