Python for Web Developers 

Learning Journal

Objective

We find that the students who do particularly well in our courses are those who practice metacognition. Metacognition is the art of thinking about thinking; developing a deeper understanding of your own thought processes. With the help of this Learning Journal, you’ll broaden your metacognitive knowledge and skills by reflecting on what you learn in this course.

Thanks to this Learning Journal, when you finish the course you’ll have a complete and detailed record of your learning journey and progress over time. We really recommend that you take the time to complete this Journal; students do better in CF courses and in the working world as a result!

Directions

First complete the pre-work section before you start your course. Then, once you’ve begun learning, take time after each Exercise to return to this Journal and respond to the prompts.

There will be 3 to 5 prompts per Exercise, and we recommend spending about 10 to 15 minutes in total answering them. Don’t overthink it—just write whatever comes to mind!

Also make sure that, once you’ve started filling this document in, you upload it as a deliverable on the platform. This is so that your mentor can also see your Journal and how you’re progressing over time. Don’t worry though—what you write here won’t affect how you’re graded for the Exercise tasks. The learning journal is mostly for you and your self-evaluation!

Pre-Work: Before You Start the Course

Reflection questions (to complete before your first mentor call)

* What experiences have you had with coding and/or programming so far? What other experiences (programming-related or not) have you had that may help you as you progress through this course?

My experience with coding outside of CF has been very limited, but I did try to learn python when I was in high school. However, the journey came to an end soon and I don't remember much of it.

* What do you know about Python already? What do you want to know?

I know that it's a very versatile and known language, and I want to learn as much as possible in order to be able to code my own projects with ease.

* What challenges do you think may come up while you take this course? What will help you face them? Think of specific spaces, people, and times of day of week that might be favorable to your facing challenges and growing. Plan for how to solve challenges that arise.

I expect to encounter many bugs or blockages during the course. Even though I always pay attention to the task steps, sometimes some things don't work as intended because I don't really understand what I'm doing. I plan to focus more on understanding what each piece of code or command does before I execute them, in order to have a more well-rounded knowledge base and also more efficient code.

Remember, you can always refer to [Exercise 1.4](https://careerfoundry.com/en/steps/your-cf-team#receiving-support) of the Orientation course if you’re not sure whom to reach out to for help and support.

Exercise 1.1: Getting Started with Python

Learning Goals

* Summarize the uses and benefits of Python for web development
* Prepare your developer environment for programming with Python

Reflection Questions

* In your own words, what is the difference between frontend and backend web development? If you were hired to work on backend programming for a web application, what kinds of operations would you be working on?

Frontend focused on everything that the user sees, backend focuses on executing everything that the user interacts with. If I was hired to work on backend programming for a web application, I expect to be working on the system/app itself that we are developing, creating every interaction the user may come across, basically everything aside from frontend view/design.

* Imagine you’re working as a full-stack developer in the near future. Your team is asking for your advice on whether to use JavaScript or Python for a project, and you think Python would be the better choice. How would you explain the similarities and differences between the two languages to your team? Drawing from what you learned in this Exercise, what reasons would you give to convince your team that Python is the better option?

*(Hint: refer to the Exercise section “The Benefits of Developing with Python”)*

Python and JavaScript areboth versatile, high-level languages with OOP support. Python prioritizes readability, while JavaScript's syntax can be more complex. Python's dynamic typing contrasts JavaScript's loose typing. JavaScript excels in asynchronous operations, while Python offers simplicity in concurrency.

* Now that you’ve had an introduction to Python, write down 3 goals you have for yourself and your learning during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps you. What do you want to learn about Python? What do you want to get out of this Achievement? Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

1. learn python basics very well

2. learn to develop apps with python with as minimal help as possible and become familiarised with more complex aspects of python

3. apply my new python knowledge on existing apps to improve them, or on a completely different one