UDACITY

Intro to Programming Nanodegree Program

Student Handbook & Syllabus

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I. Introduction

Welcome to Udacity's Intro to Programming Nanodegree program! After reading this document, you should understand the requirements and policies of the Nanodegree program, where completing the program will take you, and how to get support when you need it.

Please read this whole document carefully before you begin, and if you still have questions at the end, feel free to contact us in the forum or at introprogramming-support@udacity.com.

Once again, welcome, and we can't wait to see what you achieve!

Happy learning,
The Udacity Team

II. Anatomy of a Nanodegree Program

If you have zero programming knowledge, completing this Nanodegree program will give you enough to be effective. You won't just learn to code, you will learn what it means to "think like a programmer" and you'll have your own web page and a portfolio of programs you've built to prove it.

This Nanodegree program equips you with the foundational programming knowledge and skills that all programmers use whether they program mobile apps, create web pages, or analyze data.

Note: Unlike other Nanodegree programs, this one does not prepare you for a specific role (e.g. Web Developer or Data Analyst). However, it will set you apart in your current job, open new opportunities in technology and will give you the foundations to continue learning.

Enrollment Requirements

This Nanodegree program is the perfect place to start if you have never programmed before. However, as stated above, it is important to consider whether or not you can devote the 10 hours per week expected for students in the program. If you realize that you do not currently have the bandwidth to make this commitment and do not want to continue, please unsubscribe from the Nanodegree program *before* your 7-day free trial ends. You will be able to re-enroll at a later time if you find more time in your schedule. We cannot guarantee a refund for students as a result of the program not being a good fit for them.

Courses and Project Checkpoints

This Nanodegree program consists of a series of **5 projects**. In each one, you will learn new broadly-applicable technical skills. After each course, you will complete a **project checkpoint,** where you will apply your new skills by adding pieces of functionality to your web page. At each checkpoint, you will submit your work for valuable feedback on your progress. More information is provided in **Section III: Nanodegree Program Roadmap**. You can see a list of these projects and courses in your **Udacity Home**.

Due to the high volume of submissions, the turnaround period for project evaluations is **1 week**. While waiting for the evaluation to be returned, you are welcome to start working on your next project.

Community

One of the biggest benefits of the Nanodegree experience is being part of a **community** and completing the program with hundreds of other students from around the world. Though not all students may move through the curriculum at exactly the same pace, your Nanodegree

community will be your strongest resource and support system. We expect you to be active in your community, as outlined in the **Honor Code**.

Deadlines

To help you pace yourself, each project has its own **deadline** -- a date by which the project must be submitted -- that you'll need to reach in order to make good progress in your Nanodegree program. You'll find your deadlines in your Udacity Home.

Time Commitment

We designed this Nanodegree program so that you can graduate in **4-6 months**, assuming you devote at least **10 hours per week** to learning and working on the required projects. Students are welcome to finish the Nanodegree program in as little as two months (our minimum required commitment for eligibility to graduate) if they are able to commit more than the minimum time to learn the material and complete the projects.

III. Nanodegree Program Roadmap

Program Timeline and Project Portfolio

Graduating from the Nanodegree program requires that you submit work that meets Udacity's specifications for the five stages of your project and the final product you submit. **You can find the timeline, as well as a roadmap for what you'll work on in the program, in your Udacity Home.**

If you are not able to meet a deadline, you will automatically be assigned new deadlines based on your progress and activity in the Nanodegree program.

Project Submission and Graduation

You will submit your project at the end of each stage to the Udacity Review Team for evaluation using your Udacity Home .

You can submit your work for project stages as soon as your first payment has been received. Once we've received and begun to process your submission, you will receive a confirmation email. Due to the high volume of submissions and the time it may take your project reviewer to give personalized feedback, the turnaround period for project evaluations may be **up to 1 week.** While waiting for the evaluation to be returned, you are welcome to start working on the next stage of your Nanodegree program.

Once your work for a project stage has met the specifications of its rubric you may be required to do a verification interview with a Udacity Coach to verify that the submission in question represents your own work and/or correctly cites all sources and reasons for using others' code in

any part of your submission. **For verification purposes, the name on your Udacity account must match the government-issued ID you show us during your verification interview.**

How do I maintain good standing in the program?

To maintain good standing and stay in the program, students are expected to meet the following criteria:

- Abide by the [Udacity Honor Code](#), the [Terms of Service](#), and the terms outlined in this Intro to Programming Nanodegree program Student Handbook
- If asked, schedule an exit interview within 7 days to have the projects verified over video chat

The requirements above are designed to help students graduate from the Intro to Programming Nanodegree program within 4 to 6 months of enrollment or earlier. Students who do not maintain good standing will be asked to leave the program.

Honor Code

Nanodegree Program

- I will abide by the [Terms of Service](#), Student Handbook guidelines, and all components of the Honor Code set for Udacity Nanodegree participants.

- I will conduct myself with honor as part of the Udacity community.

- I understand that all decisions regarding participation, graduation, and awarding of verified certificates will be made by Udacity at its sole discretion.

Project Submissions

- I hereby confirm that all project submissions consist of my own work. Accordingly, I will document and cite the origins of any part(s) of my project submissions that were taken from websites, books, forums, blog posts, github repositories, or any other source and explain why I used them for any part of my submission. Acceptable sources consist of:

  - Un/modified code from the Udacity courses
  - A modest amount of un/modified code from third-party sources with attribution
  - NOT ACCEPTABLE: any part of another student's work, even with attribution

- I understand that Udacity will check my submission for plagiarism, and that failure to adhere to the [Udacity Honor Code](#) may result in the cancellation of my enrollment.

- I understand that I may be asked to explain my work in a video call with a Udacity Coach before my Nanodegree is conferred.

Community Guidelines

- I will help cultivate a positive, supportive learning environment.

- I will communicate respectfully and considerately with all other Nanodegree program participants, Udacity Coaches, and Udacity representatives.

- I will not share any content that is obscene, illicit, threatening, or discriminatory.

- I will contribute constructively to discussions with fellow students.

- I will notify a Udacity Coach immediately if I become aware of cheating or plagiarism by any Nanodegree student.
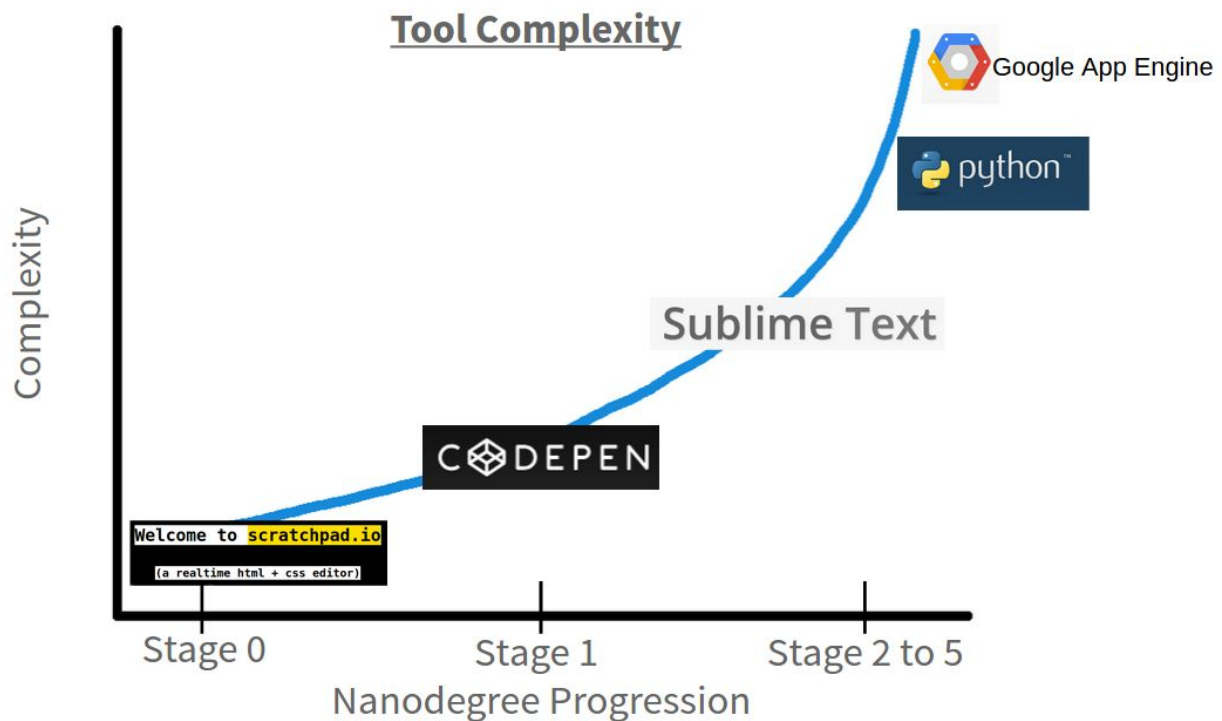
IV. Setting Up For Success

Setting Appropriate Expectations

Learning programming involves more than learning the concepts and programming commands in the computer. Learning how to program also involves learning the programming terminology to technically communicate with other people and learning how to install, configure, and use the programming tools that helps a programmer to actually create the program.

Therefore, a student should expect to devote time to learn the technical vocabulary that programmers use to communicate with each other and to learn how to install, configure, and use various programming tools throughout the Nanodegree program. Below is a graph of the programming tools and the level of complexity that students in the Introduction to Programming Nanodegree program will learn.

Students should take heed and expect tool complexity and difficulty to rapidly increase from Stage 2 to Stage 5.

Tool Complexity — Complexity vs. Nanodegree Progression (Stage 0, Stage 1, Stage 2 to 5). Tools shown: Welcome to scratchpad.io (a realtime html + css editor), CODEPEN, Sublime Text, python, Google App Engine.

Therefore, students should expect to spend time learning how to configure the tools on their computers and to learn the new vocabulary that's needed when communicating with other programmers.

Depending on a student's computer proficiency, a student may need to take more than 10 hours a week learning programming concepts, vocabulary, and tools.

Study Tips

Below are four tips that one of our data scientists at Udacity have found that correlate with our most successful students:

1. Study for at least an hour everyday
2. Every bit counts - use the mobile app
3. Practice, practice, practice
4. Try hard, try often, and you'll succeed

For more details, please follow this Udacity blog post.

V. Nanodegree Support System

Community Forum

Each Nanodegree program has its own **Udacity Discussions forum** where students can ask and answer each other's questions about the projects, program logistics, and course material. Udacity Coaches also moderate posts, answer student questions, and publicize important program information in this forum. Coaches do their best to ensure all content-related questions have answers within twenty-four hours.

To access the forum, click the Discussions link from any classroom page in your Nanodegree path. Then click the "Log In" button in the upper right hand corner to be automatically signed in.

Here is What the Discussion Forums Look Like

To see a bigger version of the picture, please click here.

How to Ask Good Questions on the Forums

1. Provide context for everyone
   a. Include url links to the course video or quiz
   b. Explain your process, include screenshots if necessary
   c. Include the error message
2. Format your code using **markdown**

a. Put three backticks(```) on the line before your code starts and three more on the line after your code ends

Markdown Basics

The left column is the markdown code we use in order to render the code we see on the right column.

```html
This is <em>really</em> cool!
```

This is really cool!

```python
print 'Hello World!'
```

print 'Hello World!'

[Udacity](http://www.udacity.com)

Udacity

Events and Google+ Communities

Nanodegree students have access to content, community, and career events integral to their learning experience through Google Hangouts On Air hosted in the **Intro to Programming Nanodegree Google+ Community**. To join this community, each student needs to have or create a Google+ account under **the name listed on their Udacity profile**.

Webcasts

Webcasts are live, 45-minute sessions in which Udacity instructors present a topic of interest involving the course projects, course material, and/or Nanodegree program requirements live and on-air. These sessions occur once per week over Hangouts On Air, unless otherwise noted. You can access these events through your Google+ Community, and a recording of each session will be available afterward.

Webcasts occur regularly on Tuesdays at 7PM EST. If you are unable to attend a live broadcast, you are welcome to submit questions you have in advance and come back to hear them answered when it's convenient for you. Please go to the actual event on Google+ in order to submit a question.

Here is a link to transcripts to previously recorded Webcasts

Office Hours

Office Hours are Udacity instructor led sessions with a group of 10-15 people on Google Hangout. This intimate environment allows students to ask questions with a coach that involve quizzes, project strategies, concept issues, and programming sessions. Office Hours occur every Wednesday at 10:00AM PST and every Thursday at 6:00PM PST, please check the calendar for more details.

One-on-one Appointments

The Udacity Coach team is available for 20-minute one-on-one appointments on a first come, first served basis. The purpose of these meetings is to help answer in-depth content-related questions that you cannot get answers to elsewhere. Below are instructions on how to setup an appointment:

1. Go to the Intro to Programing Nanodegree Appointment Calendar.
2. Fill out the mandatory form in the Description section of the appointment. Be as specific as you can so that coaches can prepare beforehand. Appointments without the form filled out will be cancelled.
3. Double-check to make sure that your timezone is consistent with our hours. Feel free to contact the coach conducting the appointment beforehand to confirm.
4. If you need to reschedule or cancel, please do so within 48 hours of your appointment. If you are unable to attend an appointment less than 48 hours in advance, it is your responsibility to email the coach and let them know. Otherwise, you may be prohibited from making an appointment for another two weeks.
5. Students can make appointments **once every two weeks**, and up to two weeks in advance. This is to ensure that we can give time to as many students as possible since we expect individual appointments to be in high demand.

VI. Payment Policy and Cancellations

Free Trials

All Nanodegree programs start with a 7-day free trial (more precisely, seven 24-hour cycles), during which time you will have full access to all Nanodegree program features.

You are required to enter your credit card information at the time of enrollment but will not be billed until after your free trial expires. After this, you will automatically be charged a fee of **$199 per month** for your Nanodegree program subscription.

Cancellations and Refunds

If you opt to cancel your enrollment within the one-week Free Trial window, you will not be charged, regardless of how far you have come in the program.

Students who cancel will no longer be charged the monthly subscription fee, effective the next billing cycle from the date of cancellation. Students who wish to cancel after the Free Trial expires **will not be granted a refund** for the past month's subscription fees.

Pausing a Nanodegree Program

If you need to take a break, you can pause your Nanodegree program for 7, 14, or 30 days by going to your account settings here. During your pause time, you will not have access to your learning path, mentor support services, code reviews, or the forum. You also will not be billed. Your progress will be saved and you can pick up where you left off after you un-pause.

Learn more about how pausing your Nanodegree program affects your billing and 50% back eligibility here.

More Questions?

If you have any unanswered questions, please email introprogramming-support@udacity.com. We're glad to have you in the program!