

# Checklist to Your First Job as a Developer

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What You Really Need to Learn &  
What Projects to Build



# *Hi I'm Jenny*

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I'm the founder of Women in Web Dev, the online community for female developers!

I never thought I would code for a living. I didn't touch my first line of code until I was 21 in university and took 5 years of playing around before I took leap to go to a coding bootcamp.

There is SO MUCH to learn in coding, and it's so easy to get overwhelmed! I know I still do when I look at all the things that I don't know, even with a few years of experience.



The truth is that if you have the foundation knowledge to do 80% of the job, you can pick up the other 20% "nice-to-have" as needed.

In this guide, you will learn:

- 3 common dev jobs you can get
- The skills you actually need to learn for each job
- The projects you need to put in your portfolio

# 3 Common Developer Jobs

Depending on what role you are aiming to get as a developer, you will need different skills and projects to show in your portfolio.

Here are 3 common developer jobs that you will see:

## #1 - HTML and CSS Developer

HTML and CSS Developers mainly translates design into code. You will also need to know some JavaScript to add interactivity to the website.

Some of these jobs may be to build templates for Wordpress, SquareSpace or Shopify.

## #2 - Front-end JavaScript / React / Angular Developer

JavaScript front-end frameworks is the new kid on the block. Many companies are using these frameworks to build out the front-end of their websites. You will need to master programming in JavaScript, as well as a JavaScript framework like React or Angular.

## #3 - Full-Stack Developer

Full-stack developers build complex web applications that take user input, process it in the server and saves it into the database. You will write HTML and CSS, as well as the business logic on the server.

Note: If you know full-stack, you can also apply for back-end developer jobs.

# Your Skills

## HTML & CSS DEVELOPER

These are the foundation skills for ANY developer, but they're all you need to get started!

With these skills, you can apply for jobs focused on translating designs into HTML and CSS.

- HTML and CSS - the building blocks of the web
  - Responsive designs across device
  - Some JavaScript and jQuery to create interactions on the website
  - How to use Inspector Tools to debug your CSS
  - Basic terminal usage
  - Git (version control)
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## FRONT-END JAVASCRIPT DEVELOPER

If you want to open your horizons up to more front-end developer jobs, you can learn a front-end framework like React.

- Everything in Foundations
- JavaScript
- A front-end framework (ReactJS, Vue, Angular)
- What the DOM is and how to manipulate it
- Package managers and build tools (npm, yarn)
- How to interact with APIs
- State Management (redux, React Hooks)

# Your Skills

## FULL-STACK DEVELOPER

Full-stack developers build dynamic web applications (e.g. blogs, budgeting software like Mint, social networks, etc). To achieve this, you need to know back-end programming and how to interact with a database.

- A back-end programming language (e.g. Ruby, PHP, NodeJS)
- An MVC framework (e.g. Ruby on Rails, Django, Laravel)
- How to work with a database
- How to interact with 3rd party APIs and read documentation
- How to interpret and debug errors in your code
- How to write tests for your app
- How to deploy your app

## NEXT: YOUR PROJECTS

# Your Projects

There is lots of confusion about how advanced your projects should be and what it needs to do.

The purpose of your projects is to show that you can take the different things that you have learned and implement them together.

Therefore, your projects should not be a simple tutorial that can be found online (e.g. simple to-do list). The project idea doesn't have to be unique but should show a range of skills.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROJECTS:

- Is the code organized? If someone new is reading it, can they understand what's going on?
- Did you upload it to Github so the code is easily viewed?
- Does the Readme give an overview of the project and how to install?

## FOR HTML / CSS DEVELOPERS:

Your project should show that you can custom code a variety of responsive layouts.

- Is it custom coded?
- Does it have several different design elements (e.g. headers, pricing box, forms)?
- Is it responsive across different devices?
- Bonus: add CSS animations
- Bonus: add interactions to manipulate the document (e.g. moving elements from one to another, adding and removing elements)

# Your Projects

## FOR FRONT-END JAVASCRIPT DEVELOPERS:

Your project should show that you can custom code a variety of responsive layouts.

- Are you using a modern JavaScript front-end framework (e.g. React, Angular, Vue)?
- Does your project do one of the following:
  - Interact with a server?
  - Use local storage or a database to store user data?
- Does your project handle state / data changes?

Examples of projects that meet the above criteria:

- [weather app](#) showing current weather forecast based on location
- [calculator](#) with history of expressions
- [movie site](#) using The Movie Database API for data

# Your Projects

## FOR FULL-STACK DEVELOPERS:

Your project should show that you can custom code a variety of responsive layouts.

- Does your database have several tables that relate to each other?
- Does your app interact with other APIs?
- Does your app have tests?
- Is your app deployed so that anyone can demo it?

**Examples of projects that meet the above criteria:**

- a social network clone - users can make a post, follow each other and see a list of favorited posts
- a restaurant review site with user-generated reviews
- a library book borrowing tracker
- an e-commerce site integrated with Stripe



# Want More?

Thank you for downloading this checklist! If you've enjoyed it, here are some ways to go even deeper with us.

## Join our Free Facebook Group

Get coding tips, career advice and hang out with over 5000 other female developers!

[Click to join the Facebook group.](#)

## Join the Learning Circle

Want to get take your coding to the next level with mentorship and accountability?

Check out the Learning Circle, our private community designed for the aspiring female developer.

[Get on the wait list and be the first to know when doors open.](#)