

How has your knowledge of the tech field changed since class began?

My knowledge of the tech field has grown since the beginning of class. It has been interesting to dive into so many diverse topics and consider their applications to various career paths. I've enjoyed learning some of the more foundational web topics, like how the web works and the servers. It seems helpful to have some background understanding of how the larger systems that I'm working within function.

What was the most difficult part of Foundations for you? And how did you overcome that?

The most difficult part of Foundations for me was the pace of introducing new topics. I found it difficult to have the topics settle in before moving on or even adding to that knowledge base. I overcame this by taking a "one day at a time approach" where I just focused on doing my best to understand the topics being presented that day and not worry too much about what future days might look like. In addition, going back and reading handouts and doing my own research when possible helped.

Did you learn anything about the way you learn? What was it?

I learned that the way I learn is a bit more process oriented. By this I mean I realized I need a good baseline understanding of what is happening and the logic behind it before I feel comfortable applying that knowledge. I also learned that just listening to the lectures wasn't enough for me to have the topics set in. To help with that I simply sought out additional supplemental resources. In addition, I learned that there is so much jargon in the developer world and people use it all differently. I struggled at first to pick up on the nuances of what different instructors were saying, which is why I think I seek out that base foundational understanding first to then build off of.

How will you apply what you know about your learning style during Specializations?

Knowing what I know now about how I learn best in this accelerated format, I will continue to do readings on my own to supplement the material being presented. In addition, I am going to try and read through the handout and attempt to understand the topic before it is presented in lecture. I think this will help me develop my baseline understanding and build up from there.

What was your experience with pair programming like?

With our cohort being so small I found the pair programming to be enjoyable in terms of being able to connect with my different peers. I did struggle at first with sort of stumbling through my understanding of a topic and having someone watch me or ask me what my logic behind my decision was. I now see the value but it was a new and sort of odd transition from how I have traditionally learned and applied topics in the past. What I do appreciate about pair programming is being forced to talk out my logic.

What parts of Foundations did you enjoy the most? (This could be anything from a specific lab or lecture to the general setup of class or a funny moment.)

What I enjoyed most about Foundations was the lab portion of the day and being able to apply the ideas presented that day. Again, since our cohort was small, I really enjoyed getting to know

everyone and hearing from everyone on such a regular basis. I also think that because the cohort was small it forced me to participate in a way that I'm not sure I would have felt comfortable doing if the cohort had been really big.