Udacity is excited to welcome you to your Scholarship program!

*We’re so excited to accompany you on your educational journey! Get ready to be a part of a tight-knit community of lifelong learners from all walks of life. Some students in the past have used their Udacity scholarship as a stepping stone to launch their careers in tech. We can’t wait to see where you take this scholarship opportunity!*

Please read on for some helpful details as you start the program.

**Scholarship Challenge Phase Requirements**

The lessons in the AWS Machine Learning Foundations Course have been specially designed to prepare you to take the full Nanodegree program. We recommend you take the time to go through the carefully prepared lessons, as course completion is required to qualify for a Nanodegree program scholarship seat.

You must fulfill **both** of these requirements to be eligible for the Nanodegree program scholarship:

* You are **required** to complete all the lessons and go through all the concepts in this program.
* You are **required** to take an assessment from which top performers will be selected for one of **425** full scholarships for the AWS Machine Learning Engineer Nanodegree program. More details will be provided via email closer to the Challenge phase end.

**Slack Community Info**

Join the AWS Machine Learning community! This group of AWS AI/ML enthusiasts was established to share ideas, questions, and help to expand our collective knowledge. Join the conversation on Slack today to stay up to date on special events and sessions!

Below is the auto-invite link to join the Slack community led by AWS.

Join the Slack community by clicking [here](https://aws-ml-community.slack.com/join/shared_invite/zt-ovapd436-0_0Hfv9z8i7IvqjFomw59w?u%5b%E2%80%A6%5d&utm_campaign=Udacity%20AWS%20ML%20Foundations%20Course).

In this exclusive student community, you’ll be able to collaborate with your peers, give and receive support, and participate in community challenges organized by our Community team that will help you complete your coursework. The Slack community will become your number one place to receive technical help.

**Orientation**

Our Community team will be hosting a live Orientation where they’ll share the eligibility criteria for a scholarship for a full Nanodegree program.

When: June 29th @ 10AM PT | 1PM ET

Follow this link to attend the Orientation: Link: <https://udacity.zoom.us/j/98086109194?pwd=WkExVEV6aWtFVHkvVHMyUkpiL1hHQT09>

Meeting ID: 980 8610 9194 Passcode: AWS

The live Orientation on Zoom will have limited seats, but it will be live-streamed on YouTube. The live stream link will be posted on the Google Site (Link shared below) once the Orientation begins. Anyone who is unable to enter the Zoom meeting can still join the Orientation via the live stream link! **Make sure to check the Google Site on June 29th after 10 AM PT for the live stream link.**

The orientation will be recorded and posted on the Scholarship Google site for anyone who is unable to attend the live session. The Scholarship Google Site site will be your go-to spot for all information about this Scholarship program. Check back often as updates are made regularly. If you have a question, the answer is most likely here.

Link: <https://sites.google.com/udacity.com/awsmachinelearningchallenge>

Happy learning!

Udacity Scholarship programs are meant to challenge you to achieve your goals. There will be moments where you are pushed to your limits, but not to fear! You have the support of thousands in the student community who are right there with you. As long as you dedicate the time and effort to complete the Challenge Course and participate in the community, you will be successful.

At Udacity, students who participate in our Scholarship Challenge Phases are most successful if they implement the following best practices:

* Dedicate 3-5 hours per week to the Challenge Course
* Join the Slack Community and participate actively
* Go through all Challenge Phase content carefully and thoroughly

Students who are awarded the full Nanodegree program scholarship are given the opportunity to complete the full Nanodegree program at no additional cost to them. Students who graduate with a Nanodegree certificate will leave the program with:

* A portfolio of projects to showcase to potential employers
* Professional skills to advance their career
* The Challenge Phase will end on **October 11, 2021**, for every learner.
* Winners of the full Nanodegree program scholarship seats will be announced on **October 21, 2021.**

Please note - there may be references to Nanodegree projects and some additional project materials provided. **You will not submit a project as part of this Challenge Phase.** However, if you are selected as a winner for the full scholarship, you will be required to formally submit and pass all technical projects per the suggested deadlines after you are enrolled in the Nanodegree program

**Everyone is welcome!**

All learners are welcome to take the foundations course, but familiarity with basic mathematical concepts such as calculation, average, variance, and beginning level programming (preferably Python) is recommended to fully engage in all of the coursework. If you want to brush up on your Python skills, we encourage you to review our free [Introduction to Python](https://www.udacity.com/course/introduction-to-python--ud1110) course.

**Learn More About Machine Learning**

We encourage you to dive deeper in to machine learning with our [Intro to Machine Learning](https://www.udacity.com/course/intro-to-machine-learning--ud120) and [Intro to Deep Learning with PyTorch](https://www.udacity.com/course/deep-learning-pytorch--ud188) courses.

Both courses are **FREE** and will help you be even better prepared to take the end-of-course assessment.

You may also find our [Version Control with Git](https://www.udacity.com/course/version-control-with-git--ud123) course helpful. It is also offered for **FREE**.

**Course Overview**

* **Lesson 2: Introduction to Machine Learning** – In this lesson, you will learn the fundamentals of supervised and unsupervised machine learning, including the process steps of solving machine learning problems, and explore several examples.
* **Lesson 3: Machine Learning with AWS** – In this lesson, you will learn about advanced machine learning techniques such as generative AI, reinforcement learning, and computer vision. You will also learn how to train these models with AWS AI/ML services.
* **Lesson 4: Software Engineering Practices, part 1** – In this lesson, you will learn how to write well-documented, modularized code.
* **Lesson 5: Software Engineering Practices, part 2** – In this lesson, you will learn how to test your code and log best practices.
* **Lesson 6: Object-Oriented Programming –**In this lesson, you will learn about this programming style and prepare to write your own Python package.

**By the end of the course, you will be able to...**

* Explain machine learning and the types of questions machine learning can help to solve.
* Explain what machine learning solutions AWS offers and how AWS AI devices put machine learning in the hands of every developer.
* Apply software engineering principles of modular code, code efficiency, refactoring, documentation, and version control to data science.
* Apply software engineering principles of testing code, logging, and conducting code reviews to data science.
* Implement the basic principles of object-oriented programming to build a Python package.