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)

1. 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?

Prior to starting Python course I have completed the course in front-end development (HTML, CSS) and JavaScript course ( full-stack: JavaScript, Node.js, React, React Native, MongoDB, PostgreSQL)

1. What do you know about Python already? What do you want to know?

Python is the one of the most used and versatile language when it comes to data analysis, machine learning and AI. deally I would like to learn more about the AI side of python

1. 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.

Challenges that might come up -

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

1. 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 the client side, creating a user interface which will be responsive and easy to use, while keeping design neat and consistent.**

**Backend deals with API, databases, security. I.e maintaining mechanisms that process data.**

**If I would be offered a job of a backend developer, I would need to create and maintain database,creating and/or maintaining API’s, debugging**

1. 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 is versatile to work easy to read and write, especially when it comes to a backend, it has installed open source packages that can save time, easier to debug.**

1. 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?

* **Basics of working in Python (syntax, packages)**
* **Enough knowledge to be able to build on it and learn AI and Machine learning.**
* **Enough knowledge to be able to apply for mid-weight backend engineer positions.**
* **In the future, I would like to use my knowledge of python as well as React and React Native to be able to successfully build mobile and web applications.**

### Exercise 1.2: Data Types in Python

#### Learning Goals

* Explain variables and data types in Python
* Summarize the use of objects in Python
* Create a data structure for your Recipe app

#### Reflection Questions

1. Imagine you’re having a conversation with a future colleague about whether to use the iPython Shell instead of Python’s default shell. What reasons would you give to explain the benefits of using the iPython Shell over the default one?
2. Python has a host of different data types that allow you to store and organize information. List 4 examples of data types that Python recognizes, briefly define them, and indicate whether they are scalar or non-scalar.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Data type** | **Definition** | **Scalar or Non-Scalar?** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. A frequent question at job interviews for Python developers is: what is the difference between lists and tuples in Python? Write down how you would respond.
2. In the task for this Exercise, you decided what you thought was the most suitable data structure for storing all the information for a recipe. Now, imagine you’re creating a language-learning app that helps users memorize vocabulary through flashcards. Users can input vocabulary words, definitions, and their category (noun, verb, etc.) into the flashcards. They can then quiz themselves by flipping through the flashcards. Think about the necessary data types and what would be the most suitable data structure for this language-learning app. Between tuples, lists, and dictionaries, which would you choose? Think about their respective advantages and limitations, and where flexibility might be useful if you were to continue developing the language-learning app beyond vocabulary memorization.

### Exercise 1.3: Functions and Other Operations in Python

#### Learning Goals

* Implement conditional statements in Python to determine program flow
* Use loops to reduce time and effort in Python programming
* Write functions to organize Python code

#### Reflection Questions

1. In this Exercise, you learned how to use **if-elif-else** statements to run different tasks based on conditions that you define. Now practice that skill by writing a script for a simple travel app using an **if-elif-else** statement for the following situation:

* The script should ask the user where they want to travel.
* The user’s input should be checked for 3 different travel destinations that you define.
* If the user’s input is one of those 3 destinations, the following statement should be printed: “Enjoy your stay in \_\_\_\_\_\_!”
* If the user’s input is something other than the defined destinations, the following statement should be printed: “Oops, that destination is not currently available.”

Write your script here. *(Hint: remember what you learned about indents!)*

|  |
| --- |
| def put\_destination()  destination = input(‘Choose your city’ )  If destination ==’London’:  print(‘Welcome to London’)  elif destination ==’Paris’:  print (‘Welcome to Paris’)  elif destination ==’Madrid’:  print(‘Welcome to Madrid’)  else:  print(‘Oops, that destination is not currently available’)  else:  print(‘thanks for choosing us’) |

1. Imagine you’re at a job interview for a Python developer role. The interviewer says “Explain logical operators in Python”. Draft how you would respond.

**Logical operators are used to perform on boolean values which can be True or False. There are three main logical operators ‘and’, ’or’, ‘not’. ‘and’ operator will return True if both operands are true. Otherwise, it will return False**

**‘or’ operator returns True if at least one of the operands is True. If both of them are False, it will return False**

**‘not’ operator will flip the value of the condition. If the operand is False it will return True and if the operand is True it will return False**

1. What are functions in Python? When and why are they useful?

**A function in python is a block of reusable code which is used to perform different tasks. They are useful for code organization, readability, and maintainability.**

1. In the section for Exercise 1 in this Learning Journal, you were asked in question 3 to set some goals for yourself while you complete this course. In preparation for your next mentor call, make some notes on how you’ve progressed towards your goals so far.

**As I’ve just started learning Python that was essential to learn some of the basic principals without which It would be impossible to progress .**

### Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

#### Learning Goals

* Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

#### Reflection Questions

1. Why is file storage important when you’re using Python? What would happen if you didn’t store local files?

**Storage is important, so the files can be reused as many times as needed, without needing to add them manually every time. If the local files are not stored all the data will be lost as soon as the program is terminated**

1. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the **pickle.dump()** method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?

**Pickles are a complex data converted into a byte stream and stored into a binary file.**

**Pickles would be useful when working with complex data structures such as dictionaries**

1. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you’re currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?

**getcwd() function is used to find out which directory ine is currently in. The function to change directory is chdir()**

1. Imagine you’re working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

**To prevent the entire script from terminating I would use try-except block. Where in first try a block of code would expect to have an error. If the error not found the code will continue to execute, however if there is an error the except will notify user with the directions on how to possibly fix it.**

1. You’re now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What’s something you’re proud of so far? Is there something you’re struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

**So far, the studies are going well. However, I still have some struggles when it comes to working with the code which need to include several functions. So need more practice in this field.**

### Exercise 1.5: Object-Oriented Programming in Python

#### Learning Goals

* Apply object-oriented programming concepts to your Recipe app

#### Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, what is object-oriented programming? What are the benefits of OOP?

**It is programming principle that uses methods, objects and classes to create and structure a reusable code. It is useful for simplifying complex code by making it reusable**

1. What are objects and classes in Python? Come up with a real-world example to illustrate how objects and classes work.

**Python is an object oriented language. A class is a constructor for creating objects. They are a predefined structure consisted of methods and attributes. As an example a class ‘Cats’ will contain the properties for cats such as breed, age, name etc The object will be a particular breed such as ‘maine coon’ which will represent a cat with its properties.**

1. In your own words, write brief explanations of the following OOP concepts; 100 to 200 words per method is fine.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Method** | **Description** |
| Inheritance | Allows to define a class that inherits all the methods and properties from a parent class |
| Polymorphism | Is a concept where several methods from different classes have the same name across different classes but performs different operations depending on where it was defined |
| Operator Overloading | Allows to define custom behavior for standard operators. |

### Exercise 1.6: Connecting to Databases in Python

#### Learning Goals

* Create a MySQL database for your Recipe app

#### Reflection Questions

1. What are databases and what are the advantages of using them?

**Database is an organized collections where data is stored.**

**The advantages is that data in database is stored in standardized format which is making storing and accessing data more easily. It is also a way to keep the data secured by using a password to protect it.**

1. List 3 data types that can be used in MySQL and describe them briefly:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Data type** | **Definition** |
| VARCHAR(n) | A string of variable length. N represents a maximum number of characters |
| INT | Standard integers |
| FLOAT | Floating-point decimal numbers |

1. In what situations would SQLite be a better choice than MySQL?

**SQLLite is better option when working with simple databases, or to test database without setting up entire database engine. As it doesn’t require installation or setup**

1. Think back to what you learned in the Immersion course. What do you think about the differences between JavaScript and Python as programming languages?

**Python is easier than JS to read and maintain code. However, the interpreter needed to be installed. Python adopts an independent based syntax without the need of semicolon.**

1. Now that you’re nearly at the end of Achievement 1, consider what you know about Python so far. What would you say are the limitations of Python as a programming language?

**Due to its interpreted nature, python can face some performance issues compared to compiled languages.**

### Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

#### Learning Goals

* Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
* Build your final command-line Recipe application

#### Reflection Questions

1. What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?

**ORM is a programming technique that enables smooth interaction between object oriented code and relational database. It improves code readability and maintainability. It is reducing the amount of errors caused by manual SQL query writing**

1. By this point, you’ve finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What’s something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what’s something about your app that you would change or improve?  
     
   **Despite certain challenges the building of the app went rather smoothly**
2. Imagine you’re at a job interview. You’re asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.

**I’ve started building the Recipe app with using basic functions and storing all the information locally.   
Later on I was able to make more complex app using mySQL where all the information can be stored, updated, and deleted**

1. You’ve finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:
   1. What went well during this Achievement?

**Despite difficulties I was able to learn quite well about Python syntax and**

* 1. What’s something you’re proud of?

**I’m proud of despite not having previous knowledge of programming in Python to be able to debug a code myself while using not only the course, but also the external resources**

* 1. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?

**The most challenging aspect was necessity to use a lot of external resources (documentation, videos etc) to be able to follow the program.**

* 1. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
  2. What’s something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?

**Keep in mind that indentation is crucial part of programming in Python**

Well done—you’ve now completed the Learning Journal for Achievement 1. As you’ll have seen, a little metacognition can go a long way!

### Pre-Work: Before You Start Achievement 2

In the final part of the learning journal for Achievement 1, you were asked if there’s anything—on reflection—that you’d keep in mind and do similarly or differently during Achievement 2. Think about these questions again:

* Was your study routine effective during Achievement 1? If not, what will you do differently during Achievement 2?
* Reflect on your learning and project work for Achievement 1. What were you most proud of? How will you repeat or build on this in Achievement 2?
* What difficulties did you encounter in the last Achievement? How did you deal with them? How could this experience prepare you for difficulties in Achievement 2?

Note down your answers and discuss them with your mentor in a call if you like.

Remember that 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 2.1: Getting Started with Django

Learning Goals

* Explain MVT architecture and compare it with MVC

**MVT (Model-View-Template) differs from MVC by incorporating a template component. With MVT there is no need to write code to fetch the data from the database and map it to the URL. After specifying items which needed to be present to the user, the framework(Template) will prepare and send them**

* Summarize Django’s benefits and drawbacks

**Django offers rapid development, follows DRY principle, provides powerful ORM system for database interaction. It is scalable and allows secure-by-design implementation with built-in automated encryption. Though it has highly structured framework so certain steps should be performed in an exact manner. Generally it is not suited for a simple projects**

* Install and get started with Django

#### Reflection Questions

1. Suppose you’re a web developer in a company and need to decide if you’ll use vanilla (plain) Python for a project, or a framework like Django instead. What are the advantages and drawbacks of each?

**Vanilla Python would be useful if the project would need a maximum flexibility. That would be useful in creating custom solutions tailored to specific project needs. However it will require manual implementation. Using Django would speed up the process with pre-configured environment and ORM, given that you can compromise on total flexibility. It will also help with reducing repetitive code. Ultimate decision should be made depending on the size of the project and how much customization company would be willing to make.**

1. In your own words, what is the most significant advantage of Model View Template (MVT) architecture over Model View Controller (MVC) architecture?

**In MVC programmers would need to write all the control-specific code, while in MVT the framework handles controller part on its own**

1. Now that you’ve had an introduction to the Django framework, write down three goals you have for yourself and your learning process during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps:

* What do you want to learn about Django?
* What do you want to get out of this Achievement?
* Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

### Exercise 2.2: Django Project Set Up

#### Learning Goals

* Describe the basic structure of a Django project
* Summarize the difference between projects and apps
* Create a Django project and run it locally
* Create a superuser for a Django web application

#### Reflection Questions

1. Suppose you’re in an interview. The interviewer gives you their company’s website as an example, asking you to convert the website and its different parts into Django terms. How would you proceed? For this question, you can think about your dream company and look at their website for reference.

(*Hint: In the Exercise, you saw the example of the CareerFoundry website in the Project and Apps section.*)

1. In your own words, describe the steps you would take to deploy a basic Django application locally on your system.
2. Do some research about the Django admin site and write down how you’d use it during your web application development.

### Exercise 2.3: Django Models

#### Learning Goals

* Discuss Django models, the “M” part of Django’s MVT architecture
* Create apps and models representing different parts of your web application
* Write and run automated tests

#### Reflection Questions

1. Do some research on Django models. In your own words, write down how Django models work and what their benefits are.
2. In your own words, explain why it is crucial to write test cases from the beginning of a project. You can take an example project to explain your answer.

### Exercise 2.4: Django Views and Templates

#### Learning Goals

* Summarize the process of creating views, templates, and URLs
* Explain how the “V” and “T” parts of MVT architecture work
* Create a frontend page for your web application

#### Reflection Questions

1. Do some research on Django views. In your own words, use an example to explain how Django views work.
2. Imagine you’re working on a Django web development project, and you anticipate that you’ll have to reuse lots of code in various parts of the project. In this scenario, will you use Django function-based views or class-based views, and why?
3. Read Django’s documentation on the [Django template language](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.2/ref/templates/language/#templates) and make some notes on its basics.

### Exercise 2.5: Django MVT Revisited

#### Learning Goals

* Add images to the model and display them on the frontend of your application
* Create complex views with access to the model
* Display records with views and templates

#### Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, explain Django static files and how Django handles them.
2. Look up the following two Django packages on Django’s official documentation and/or other trusted sources. Write a brief description of each.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Package** | **Description** |
| ListView |  |
| DetailView |  |

1. You’re now more than halfway through Achievement 2! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What’s something you’re proud of so far? Is there something you’re struggling with? What do you need more practice with? You can use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

### Exercise 2.6: User Authentication in Django

#### Learning Goals

* Create authentication for your web application
* Use GET and POST methods
* Password protect your web application’s views

#### Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, write down the importance of incorporating authentication into an application. You can take an example application to explain your answer.
2. In your own words, explain the steps you should take to create a login for your Django web application.
3. Look up the following three Django functions on Django’s official documentation and/or other trusted sources and write a brief description of each.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Function** | **Description** |
| authenticate() |  |
| redirect() |  |
| include() |  |

### Exercise 2.7: Data Analysis and Visualization in Django

#### Learning Goals

* Work on elements of two-way communication like creating forms and buttons
* Implement search and visualization (reports/charts) features
* Use QuerySet API, DataFrames (with pandas), and plotting libraries (with matplotlib)

#### Reflection Questions

1. Consider your favorite website/application (you can also take CareerFoundry). Think about the various data that your favorite website/application collects. Write down how analyzing the collected data could help the website/application.
2. Read the [Django official documentation on QuerySet API](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.2/ref/models/querysets/). Note down the different ways in which you can evaluate a QuerySet.
3. In the Exercise, you converted your QuerySet to DataFrame. Now do some research on the advantages and disadvantages of QuerySet and DataFrame, and explain the ways in which DataFrame is better for data processing.

### Exercise 2.8: Deploying a Django Project

#### Learning Goals

* Enhance user experience and look and feel of your web application using CSS and JS
* Deploy your Django web application on a web server
* Curate project deliverables for your portfolio

#### Reflection Questions

1. Explain how you can use CSS and JavaScript in your Django web application.
2. In your own words, explain the steps you’d need to take to deploy your Django web application.
3. (Optional) Connect with a few Django web developers through LinkedIn or any other network. Ask them for their tips on creating a portfolio to showcase Python programming and Django skills. Think about which tips could help you improve your portfolio.
4. You’ve now finished Achievement 2 and, with it, the whole course! Take a moment to reflect on your learning:
   1. What went well during this Achievement?
   2. What’s something you’re proud of?
   3. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
   4. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Django skills?

Well done—you’ve now completed the Learning Journal for the whole course.