

2026 Backend Roadmap

By Web Dev Simplified <https://courses.webdevsimplified.com>

Learn each section and each item in each section in order. Each section also includes projects that you can complete in any order and require only the skills learned in that section and prior sections.

Backend Language (Choose Any)

JavaScript (Recommended if also learning frontend)

Python (Recommended if also learning AI)

PHP (Recommended if also learning WordPress)

C#

Rust (Difficult to learn)

Ruby (Easier to learn but not as popular)

Backend Framework (Choose Any)

JavaScript

Node.js with Express (Recommended)

Bun (Newer so less popular)

Deno (Newer so less popular)

PHP

Laravel (Recommended)

Wordpress (Also recommended)

CodeIgniter

Python

Django (Recommended)

Flask

C#

.NET (Recommended)

Rust

Rocket (Recommended)

Ruby

Rails (Recommended)

Node.js/Express - [JavaScript Course](#) [Node.js Course](#)

Var vs Let vs Const - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Function Basics - [Video](#)

Arrow Functions - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Callbacks - [Video](#) [Related Video](#) [Article](#)

Hoisting - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Scoping - [Article](#)

Closures - [Video](#)

Strict Equality - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Type Coercion - [Video](#)

Objects/Arrays - [Array](#) [Video](#)

Reference Vs Value - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Control Flow (If, Loops, etc.)

Promises - [Article](#) [Video](#)

Async Await - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Common Modules - [Article](#)

Null Vs Undefined - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Recursion - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Array Methods - [Video](#) [Advanced Video](#)

Node.js File System Library

Template Literals - [Video](#) [Advanced Video](#) [Article](#)

Destructuring/Spread Operator - [Video](#) [Article](#)

NPM

Null Coalescing/Optional Chaining - [Null Coalescing Video](#) [Optional Chaining Video](#)

Map/Set - [Map](#) [Video](#) [Set](#) [Video](#)

Classes - [Video](#)

Express Middleware - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Express Routing - [Video](#)

Templating Language (EJS, Handlebars, Pug, etc.)

Projects (May require a database)

Easy

Basic Node.js Server - [Video](#)

Basic REST API - [Video](#)

URL Shortener - [Video](#)

Hastebin Clone - [Video](#)

Paginated API - [Video](#)

Discord Bot - [Video](#)

Basic Chrome Extension - [Video](#)

Medium

Amazon Web Scraper - [Video](#)

JSON Web Token Auth - [Video](#)

User Permission Role - [Video](#)

Passport Auth - [Video](#)

Custom Auth - [Video](#)

Stripe Payments - [Video](#) [Article](#)

PayPal Payments - [Video](#)

Google Docs Clone - [Video](#)

Password Protected File Sharing - [Video](#)

Hard

Markdown Blog - [Video](#)

Reddit Clone - [Video](#)

Realtime Chat App - [Video 1](#) [Video 2](#)

Databases - [SQL vs NoSQL Video](#)

SQL

PostgreSQL (Recommended)

MySQL (Also recommended) - [Install](#) [Video](#) [Tutorial](#) [Video](#)

SQLite

NoSQL

MongoDB (Recommended) - [Tutorial](#) [Video](#) [Cheat Sheet](#)

Redis (Recommended for caching)

Cassandra

DynamoDB (Recommended if working with AWS)

TypeScript - [Course](#)

TSConfig

Type Inference

Array Type

Any/Unknown Type - [Video](#)

Type vs Interface - [Video](#)

Functions

Unions/Intersections

readonly/keyof/typeof

as const/Enums

Tuples

Generics - [Video](#)

Type Guards

Satisfies

Built in Utility Types (Pick, Omit, etc) - [Video](#) [Article](#) [Cheat Sheet](#)

Discriminated Unions - [Video](#)

Function Overloads

Type Predicate - [Video](#)

Declaration Files

Projects

Easy

Image Slider - [Video](#)

Todo List - [Video](#)

Typing Effect Animation - [Video](#)

Hangman Clone - [Video](#)

Medium

Custom Select Component - [Video](#)

Advanced Note Taking App - [Video](#)

Multistep Form - [Video](#)

Shopping Cart - [Video](#)

Hard

Facebook Messenger Clone - [Video](#)

YouTube Home Page Clone - [Video](#)

Twitter Clone - [Video](#)

Next.js (Optional) - [Course](#)

Folder Based Routing

Metadata/SEO

Server vs Client Components - [Video](#) [Article](#)

Data Fetching

Loading/Error Pages

Dynamic Routes

Data Cache

Request Memoization

Full Route Cache

Router Cache

cacheComponents - [Video](#)

Dynamic Functions

Server Actions - [Video](#)

Parallel Routes - [Video](#)

Intercepting Routes - [Video](#)

Route Handlers

Proxy File

CSR vs SSR vs SSG vs ISR - [Video](#)

Projects

Easy

Todo List - [Video](#)

Realtime Chat - [Video](#)

Medium

Portfolio - [Video](#)

BetterAuth Tutorial - [Video](#)

Custom Authentication - [Video](#)

Hard

Parity Deals Clone - [Video](#)

Course Platform LMS - [Video](#)

Calendly Clone - [Video](#)

Ecommerce - [Video 1](#) [Video 2](#) [Video 3](#)

AI SaaS - [Video](#)

AI Powered Job Board - [Video](#)

Other Important Topics

Version Control (Learn as soon as possible) - [Video](#) [Advanced Video](#) [Advanced Article](#)

JSON (Learn alongside JavaScript) - [Video](#)

Regular Expressions (Optional) - [Video](#)

How to Deploy

Basic Security - [JWT Video](#) [CORS Video](#) [CSRF Tokens Video](#) [XSS Video](#)

Auth - [Permissions Masterclass Video](#) [Magic Link Video](#) [Biometric Auth Video](#) [CASL Video](#)

Testing - [Jest Video](#) [Vitest Video](#) [TDD Video](#) [Types of Tests Video](#) [Tips for Better Tests Video](#)