Prime Digital Academy

New Student Orientation

Welcome to Prime!

We are so excited that you have chosen Prime to start your journey towards becoming a software engineer and UX designer! Tech is changing the world, and software created by bright and driven minds will make the world a better place. That's you!

Prime's Mission

We believe well-engineered solutions to poorly-understood problems often fail. At Prime, we aim to better the industry, and the world, by empowering individuals with unique and diverse backgrounds to apply their passions to impactful problems. *In return, students earn rewarding and high-paying careers in tech in months, not years.*

OUR VALUES

Students first
Everything we do is designed to help students improve their lives.

Learn by doing
Experimentation and iteration are an engine for success

Humility
People who know everything can't learn anything

Empathetic
Recognize good solutions require a true understanding of the problem

CAMPUS INFORMATION

Studying On Campus

Co-working Space

We have monitors, conference rooms, couches and coffee. You are always welcome to work on campus during Tier 1. Need to book a room? Contact Emily via slack.

Wifi

Network: Prime Academy
Username: guest
Password: studygroup

Parking Information

We offer $7 parking validation sticker for all of our students. This is <u>only</u> valid in the Gateway parking ramp.

Building & Security Information

- We keep the classroom doors locked at all times. Carry your fob and personal items with you when you're studying on campus.
- The Grain Exchange locks it's doors at 6pm, if you forget your key fob you will need to buzz in with the security guard.

What are the food options?

There are plenty of options! We are a walk away from Trader Joes, Chipotle, Subway and much more. Students typically bring a lunch but there is always a group that will head out to grab something. Here are some common locations with a variety of options.

- **US Bank Plaza (5 min walk)** Chipotle, Jimmy Johns, Naf Naf Grill, One Two Three, Caribou etc.

- **Trader Joes (7 min walk)** Grocery store with grab & go goodies

Get Connected

Networking and continuous learning are important aspects of the experience at Prime. As we encourage you to build your professional network, we help with the process by offering a variety Prime offers a variety of community engagement opportunities for our students, alumni and industry partners some include:

Guest Speakers & Panels- Tuesdays and Thursdays
Our guest speaker series is held Tuesdays and Thursdays at Prime. Guest speakers are professionals from the local tech community that come to share their experiences, insights and knowledge within the tech industry. After each guest talk, we host a Q & A and meet and greet where you'll have an opportunity to ask questions and meet the guest presenters! This is a great way to learn more about the tech industry and network with industry professionals.

Hack Nights- 1st Monday of every month
Prime Hack Night is an event where our current students, alumni and other members of the Prime community can come together to collaborate on fun projects. At Hack night you'll have an opportunity to build or design a product- fun or functional, get ideas and inspiration from your friends at Prime!

LGBTQ Group
A networking, social, and support group for all LGBTQ and allies. A safe space for queers in the tech community to meet up. The goal of this group is to create a medium for members of the LGBTQ community who are also involved or what to be involved in the tech space to discuss, socialize, or decompress.
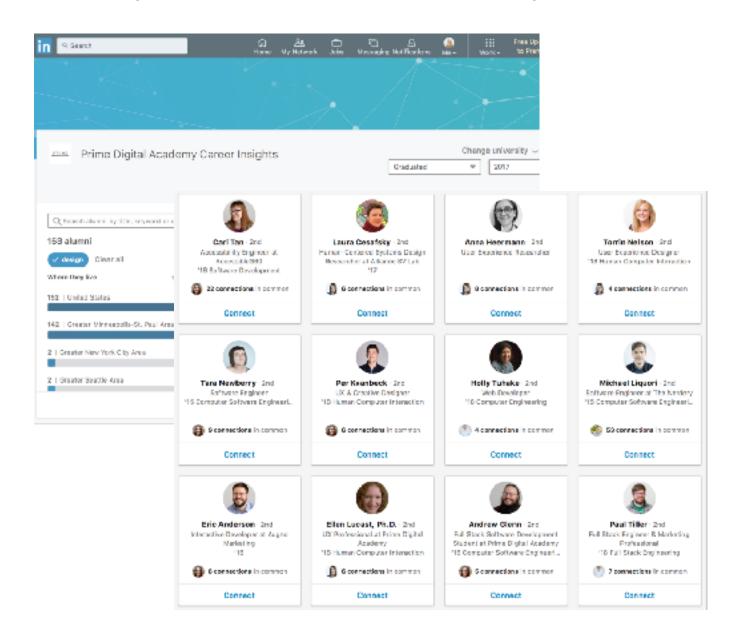
Scholarship Board
A dedicated group that works to increase the participation of underrepresented students from underserved communities in STEM industries.

Check out slack each week for weekly offerings or contact Emily on slack with questions!

AC ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Getting connected early on is always a great idea! Many Prime alums state they wish they started networking earlier. Tier 1 is a great time to start. Start small and connect with your cohort on Linkedin and reach out to our Community Manager, Emily to introduce you to someone new in our alumni community.

PLANNING FOR PRIME

PAYING FOR PRIME

Cost of Prime and scholarship options
Tuition for the both the Full Stack Engineering and User Experience Design programs at Prime is $14,250. Prime provides $500 scholarships for students of color and partners with programs like TechHire for up to 100% tuition funding and Minnesota's Dislocated Worker Program for partial tuition funding. Some students take advantage of other scholarships out there like Dollars for Scholars, but it's fairly uncommon.

Explore your personal loan options
If you need a loan to pay for Prime, the first step is seeing if you can qualify for a personal loan and what those terms could look like for you based on your credit score. Educate yourself on how personal loans work and use a site like Lending Tree to compare rates and get a feel for monthly payments and total cost using your estimated credit score. Since you're technically paying your Prime tuition in full when you use a personal loan, you qualify for our $500 tuition discount! Note that because of Prime's nimble and employer-focused curriculum, Prime students don't qualify for student federal loans / FAFSA.

Remember you have time
Study your options to understand how financing could work for you, but remember that you don't need to actually apply for a loan or have these details finalized when you submit your application to Prime. Financing can happen very quickly once you're accepted into the program. For example, applying for a loan often takes only 10 minutes, approval within 24 hours after that and digital disbursement of funds into your bank account just a few days after you accept the loan.

See if our flexible lenders make sense for you
If your credit score/history prevents you from getting approved for a personal loan, or you're looking for more flexible terms like low, interest-only payments for the first 6 months, explore loan options with our specialized lenders Skillsfund or Climb. Over 25% of our students use these flexible and accessible options!

$1500 down payment saves your spot
Your $1500 down payment is due when you confirm your acceptance into the program before your Tier 1/ part-time portion of the program begins and this confirms your spot in the cohort! See the Upcoming Cohort Schedules to see what date this is for you. If you need funds from your loan to pay the down payment, you need your loan finalized within ~2 weeks of being accepted into the program.

Remaining tuition due on your first day of full-time class
Your remaining tuition of $12,750 (sans scholarship/discounts) is due on your first day of full-time class. If you can pay the deposit without funds from a loan, your loan doesn't need to be finalized until your first day of full-time class, which is typically ~45+ days after acceptance into the program. This means plenty of time to apply and get funding from a loan, especially if you've done your homework. Reference dates in the Upcoming Cohort Schedules within your desired cohort to better understand these important financing due dates.

Orientation Checklist

- **Step 1- Turn in your contract & deposit**

- **Step 2- Complete On-boarding form:** https://goo.gl/forms/r0ChrBfzWtnIdeIr2

- **Step 3- Request Bike Room and/or Gym Access, if desired**
- **Bike Form:** Free for Prime students
- **Gym Form-** $50 fee, access up to 6 months
  To get the forms contact Emily via slack

Next Step: Your First Day!

You will receive **two** welcome emails with all the information you need to start Tier 1 on campus. Follow the instructions in the email which include: account set up, instructor information, academic expectations, technology tools and more. *Please note: You will see your first assignment on Tuesday.*

Contacts

Tier 1- Academic Questions: Ally Boyd via slack
Paying for Prime: Bill Stephenson - bill@primeacademy.io
Events & Logistics: Emily Schumacher via slack
Slack Invites: Christy Larsen via slack