

Grow with Google - Student Stories Challenge

Google Form

What circumstances brought you to Udacity?

I found out about the Udacity x Grow with Google in an email from my friends at CodeNewbie!

Why did you decide to apply for this scholarship?

As a designer, I've always flirted with the idea of becoming a programmer, and in fact, it was HTML and CSS that sparked my interest in design in the first place. Being able to craft a vision and not be able to execute on it has always frustrated me. It's typically the fork in the road that determines whether something gets done. Programming is the natural next step in pursuing my goals in leveraging technology to build products and services that can have a meaningful and lasting impact on our world. So I decided to apply.

In what ways has the scholarship challenge helped so far in your life?

So far, this Scholarship Challenge has inspired and energized me, and shown me the power of communities in motivation, both online and offline. I'm reminded that learning is one of the easiest paths to confidence, even when I'm not confident in my ability to learn the material. The slow climb to mastery is such a simple joy that lasts, and what I love most about programming is that this kind of skill building is measurable and empowering. I hope one day to be able to share that joy with others, as I continue to learn more.

Do you have any tips for fitting study time/project time into your daily schedule?

Mindset: Scheduling study time starts with a commitment to the material, but more importantly, to yourself. Learning and practice is an investment in growing a skill, not unlike fitness, but for your mind.

Commitment: With the mindset of study and practice time as a gesture of self love, I then commit to a minimum amount of time for daily study, and document that commitment on my calendar.

Tools: I really like using Google Calendar's goals feature to track my commitment overtime, as well as Habitica's party feature, to keep me accountable to friends.

Rewards: One thing that has also helped me is to incorporate a reward system. When I study successfully, I celebrate by playing a few quick rounds of my favorite game of the moment, Splatoon 2. Games were a reward structure from my childhood when I was doing well in school, so it just clicked.