

Interview Prep 1

Intro

About Sponsored Cohorts

You were selected *by the sponsor* to be a part of this cohort!

- They want you to succeed in the course.
- They want to interview you.
- They hope to even hire you!

To get hired, you first have to pass the interview(s).

Goals

Introduce the ***Interview Prep*** series of lectures and how to use them.

How to prepare for interviews with cohort sponsors.

Prepping for Interviews

Spoiler: You're Already Doing It!

Sponsors partner with us because they believe in our mission and like what we teach.

- They've reviewed our curriculum.
- They've hired our grads.

Engaging and participating fully in the course is the best way to prepare!

Interview Prep Lectures

A series of lectures to structure and guide your interview prep.

- How concepts covered during a week correspond with skills that lead to successful interviews
- Recommended code challenges you can use for more practice
- What to focus on in the upcoming week of class

Interview Prep 1

Great Engineers are Great Communicators

This is a skill you can learn!

- Software engineers understand and transmit complex ideas
- Software engineers work in teams
- Teamwork and collaboration requires communication

Framework for Communicating as an Engineer

1. Describe what problem you're trying to solve.
 - Make sure you're on the same page.
2. Explain the approaches you are considering.
 - Pseudocode!
3. Justify your decisions.
 - Why choose one approach over another?
4. Ask clarifying questions.

Example of applying steps above to talk about code:

1. Describe what your code does.
 - What's its purpose?
 - Writing comments will help here!
2. Explain how your code works.
 - How does it achieve its purpose?
3. Justify your decisions.
 - Ex.: why did you use a hashmap? Why not a different data structure?
4. Ask clarifying questions.

How to Practice

We practice this every day during lab:

- While pair programming during an exercise
- While getting code reviews or asking questions in the queue

During pair programming, you

- Discuss strategies and approaches

- Confirm what you understand in your own words
- Talk about where you are stuck

When getting a code review:

- Practice explaining your code and choices to us and get our feedback!
- We can give you tips and help you improve your technical communication skills

Recommended Code Challenges

How to Use These Practice Challenges

- Set a timer!
 - Spend no more than 30 minutes on each problem.
 - Simulate the time constraints of an interview.
- Practice staying calm if you get stuck.
 - Interview challenges are challenging!
 - Take a deep breath.
 - Keep trying until the timer runs out.
- Even *better*:
 - Practice solving the problem and explaining your approach in front of a cohortmate

This Week's Challenges

- [Codewars: Sum of Positive](#)
- [LeetCode: Contains Duplicate](#)