

1. How has your knowledge of the tech field changed since class began?

- I feel like my knowledge of the tech field is just about night and day since the class began. I had a pretty general and basic understanding about a lot of the topics we went over in class, but I didn't really understand how everything connected, nor did I understand exactly how computers "think." Whereas now I am pretty confident I could explain (on a basic level) a lot of those concepts and how computers / the web work.

2. What was the most difficult part of Foundations for you? And how did you overcome that?

- I feel like the most difficult parts have been understanding time and space complexities, the correlation between exactly how HTML and CSS work together at times, and also I honestly still feel like it's hard to come up with the code needed to complete certain tasks without looking into a source/resource to help me. Maybe that is normal for being basically 7 weeks into coding, but that has been a little bit of a constant struggle. Also, generally speaking, lectures were just super hard for me to really absorb what I needed from.

I have overcome these things mostly just through extracurricular study, talking with my peers, and by really doubling down on the hands-on material. Going back over the handouts while I was doing the lab honestly made way more sense of the lectures than going through the slides did for me. But I get that everybody learns differently. I've honestly learned a TON in the last 3 days (before today) by having to put everything together for personal projects.

3. Did you learn anything about the way you learn? What was it?

- I basically said it before, but I've definitely confirmed my thinking that I am a hands-on learner. I really honestly just need to actually do things, break things, and then rebuild them in order to learn. I come from a car / mechanical background and that's just how you learn there. You learn by doing. Learn by fixing something that broke and then figuring out why it broke. Then you learn how to prevent it in the future. So in code, it has been helpful for me to look at code that works, pick it apart, and draw it out in my mind. That's when the 'rubber hits the road' for me.

4. How will you apply what you know about your learning style during Specializations?

- I plan on taking this knowledge and using it to my advantage by continuing to build my own projects, and even reviewing other projects in order to understand concepts.

5. What was your experience with pair programming like?

- I honestly thought this was a crucial experience to have for me personally. Knowing as little as I did coming into this program, this was super beneficial on multiple levels. It was helpful for the mental/emotional aspect, knowing that when I didn't understand something that I wasn't just behind the pack and gonna get left in the dust. It was awesome because usually if one person in the group didn't get it, the other person did. And vice versa. I was able to help others and solidify my knowledge whenever I had the opportunity to help somebody else understand a concept better. I do think it can be easier to work on certain labs alone and have time alone to think about things on your own. But I think the assessments were the times where that was most relevant and helpful.

6. What parts of Foundations did you enjoy the most? (This could be anything from a specific lab or lecture to the general setup of class or a funny moment.)

- I honestly just enjoyed having a group of people that were largely on the same level as me that I could learn together with. Making friends, learning something new, and getting to turn it into something after 7 short weeks has been awesome to see. As draining as it can be, I love learning quickly. Whenever I teach myself something in my own time, I often spend hours (even through the night because I can't sleep) learning that thing if I can. I'll watch videos, read articles, try those things myself, whatever I have to do in order to get to the point of understanding on that topic that satisfies me for that day. So this has been great.

I've loved the inside jokes we've created as a cohort. I've loved the support everybody has been willing and excited to offer. I've loved getting a peek into what it will be like to work in the industry after this. I've loved the culture of it all, and being surrounded by people with similar interests. I've enjoyed having great instructors that have been willing to crack jokes and keep things light (while allowing us to keep things light in chat and whatnot). It's been a super enjoyable experience.

As far as learning goes, I've probably enjoyed the front-end type stuff the most. Creating how things look, the layout, what people will be interacting with, etc. is awesome. However I do love seeing that come to life with the backend stuff too. So it's hard to say. But I do think that the front end stuff often clicked a little quicker for me, which made it quite enjoyable and a little less frustrating.