

Welcome to Orientation!



Nail Your Next Technical Interview

Session Etiquette

- Yes, this is **recorded** and will be shared on Uplevel within 24hrs; but if you're here, **make the time count**
 - A lot of things here won't ever be repeated in the program.
 - You have been warned :-)
- Your **microphone** will be **muted**
- Add your questions to the **chat** and we will address them at the end of each segment
- You may be called upon randomly to answer questions mid way!

Agenda

1. Quick reminders
2. Discord
3. A career in tech & interviewing
4. Curriculum elements
 - a. Functional, Domain & Career Skills
5. Mocks and stalling recruiters
6. Pace
7. Break
8. A typical week (in UpLevel)
9. Coaching
10. Myth busting about IK
11. Why IK works
12. Next steps
13. Q&A

The Career Opportunity at Top Companies is Unparalleled



IC Ladder

Eng/
SC

Eng/
SC II

Sr. Eng/
SC

Staff. Eng/
SC

Sr. Staff. Eng/
SC

Prin Eng/
SC

EM Ladder

TL/M

Eng. Mgr

Sr. Eng Mgr

Director

Stability

Fantastic Perks & Equity

No Ageism

Reputation

FIRE/ FAT FIRE

Goal Setting: Start with the end in mind

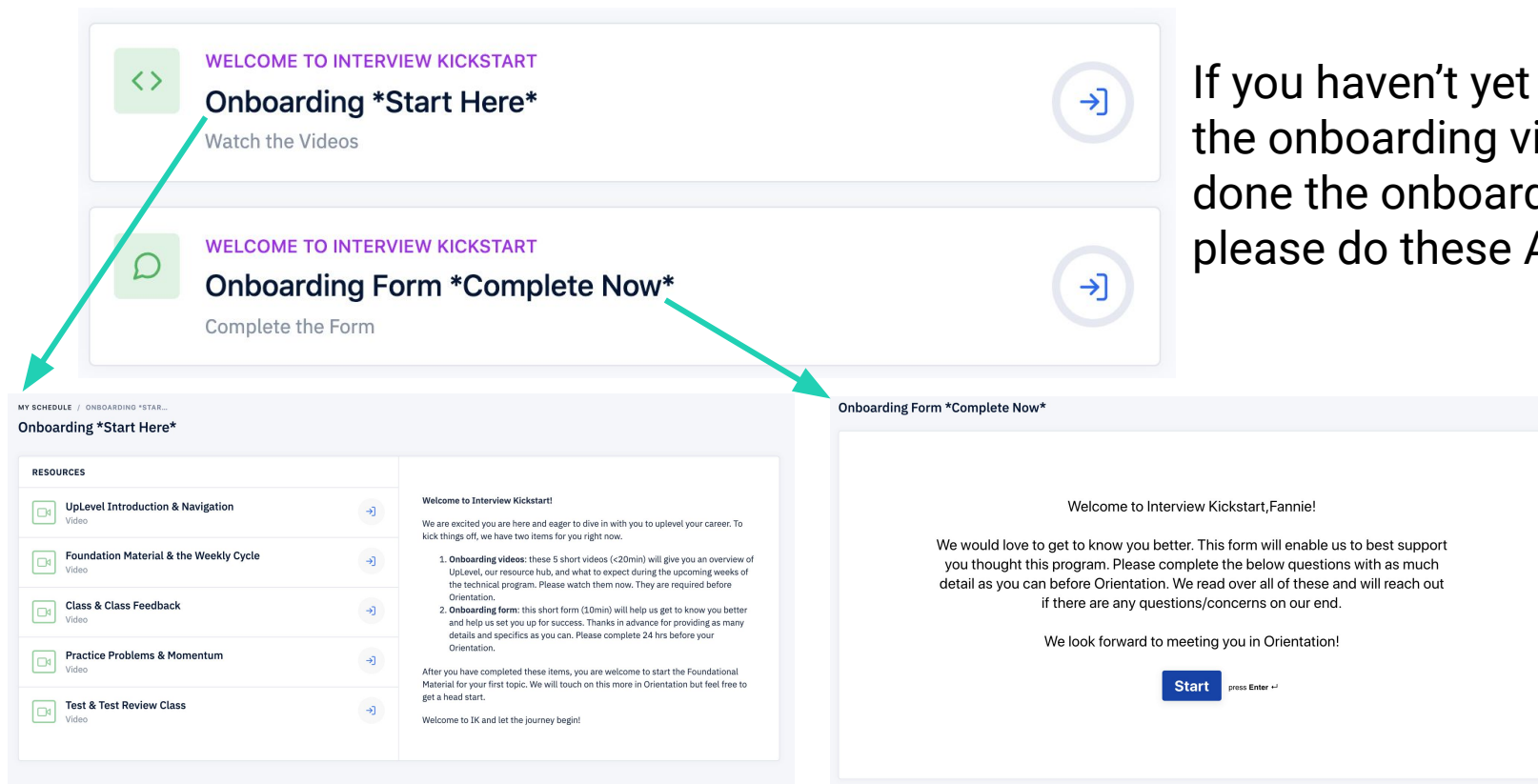
“People work better when they know what the goal is and why.”

- **Are we here to find a new job or make a career shift?**
 - ✓ Job = “A paid position of regular employment. A task or piece of work.”
 - ✓ Career = “An occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person’s life and with opportunities for progress.”
- **Building a career is hard because...**
 - ✓ Takes time/ patience (“**No shortcuts to places worth going**”)
 - ✓ Takes WAY MORE effort to learn/ develop skills/ acquire knowledge
 - It’s a competitive world, skill is required
 - ✓ Learning is hard/ uncomfortable/ requires doing things we don’t necessarily want to do
- **Building a career is important because...**
 - ✓ More long-term earning potential
 - ✓ More freedom to choose what you want to do (more fun, engaging, and rewarding)



Onboarding Videos & Onboarding Form

If you haven't yet watched the onboarding videos & done the onboarding form, please do these ASAP



The diagram illustrates the onboarding process flow. It starts with a dashboard titled "MY SCHEDULE / ONBOARDING *STAR..." containing two main sections: "Onboarding *Start Here*" and "Onboarding Form *Complete Now*". The "Onboarding *Start Here*" section includes a video icon and the text "Watch the Videos". The "Onboarding Form *Complete Now*" section includes a document icon and the text "Complete the Form". Arrows indicate the flow from the dashboard to the video player and the form.

Onboarding *Start Here*

Watch the Videos

Onboarding Form *Complete Now*

Complete the Form

Onboarding *Start Here*

MY SCHEDULE / ONBOARDING *STAR...

RESOURCES

- UpLevel Introduction & Navigation Video
- Foundation Material & the Weekly Cycle Video
- Class & Class Feedback Video
- Practice Problems & Momentum Video
- Test & Test Review Class Video

Welcome to Interview Kickstart!

We are excited you are here and eager to dive in with you to uplevel your career. To kick things off, we have two items for you right now.

- Onboarding videos:** these 5 short videos (<20min) will give you an overview of UpLevel, our resource hub, and what to expect during the upcoming weeks of the technical program. Please watch them now. They are required before Orientation.
- Onboarding form:** this short form (10min) will help us get to know you better and help us set you up for success. Thanks in advance for providing as many details and specifics as you can. Please complete 24 hrs before your Orientation.

After you have completed these items, you are welcome to start the Foundational Material for your first topic. We will touch on this more in Orientation but feel free to get a head start.

Welcome to IK and let the journey begin!

Welcome to Interview Kickstart, Fannie!

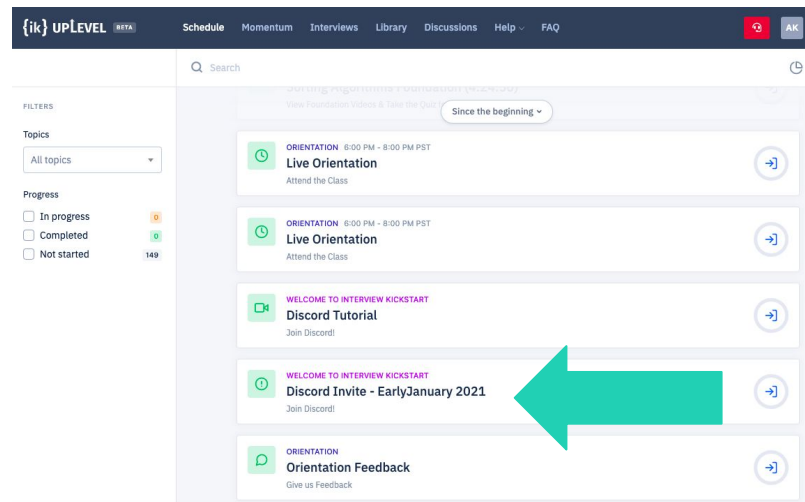
We would love to get to know you better. This form will enable us to best support you thought this program. Please complete the below questions with as much detail as you can before Orientation. We read over all of these and will reach out if there are any questions/concerns on our end.

We look forward to meeting you in Orientation!

Start press Enter ↵

Discord is a **chat channel** for you to connect with your domain & the IK team

- **Instructions + Invite on Uplevel by 8pm PST**
- This will be the main form of communication with us & each other outside of Zoom
- For announcements/ schedule updates (we will add you to this first)
- Uses for Discord
 - Organize study groups & discuss questions
 - Share resources
 - Share obstacles and solutions
- Communicate with Ops/ Student Advocates
 - Student Advocates will help support you (more on this later)



A career in tech

Technical Domains

- Data Engineering
- Embedded Systems
- Machine Learning
- Cloud
- Android
- iOS
- Security
- SRE
- Frontend
- Backend
- Data Science

Functions

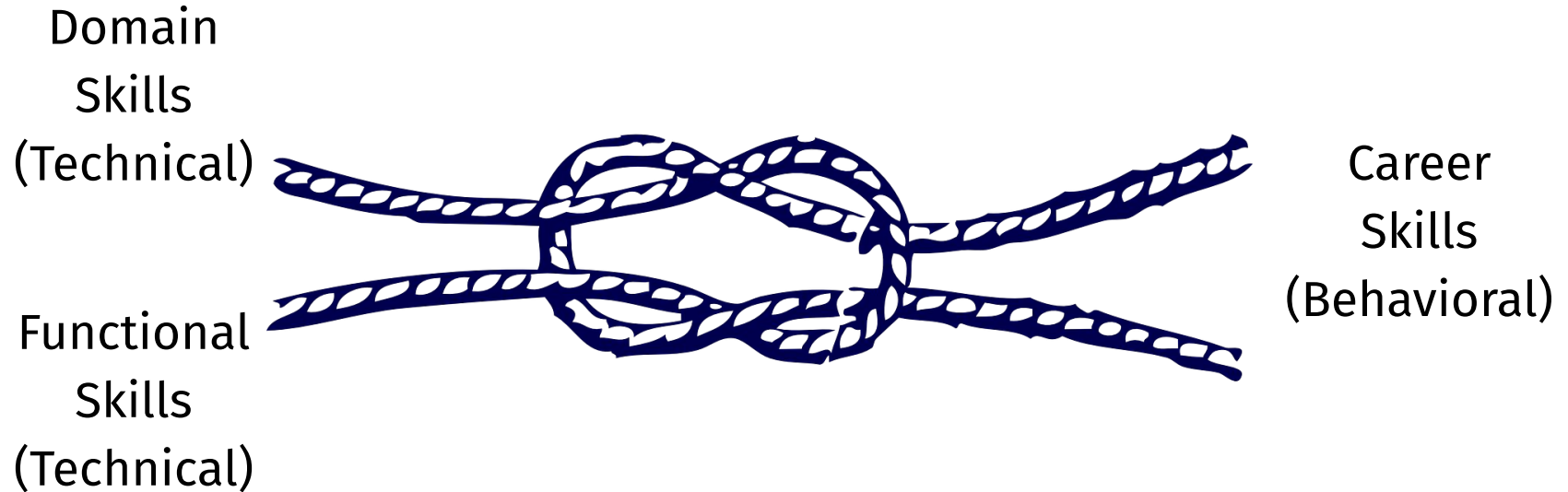
- Engineering/Science
 - Test/QA
 - Product Management
 - TPM
- ** Based on the size of the organization/ team

Sectors

- eCommerce
- Social Media
- Health
- EdTech
- FinTech

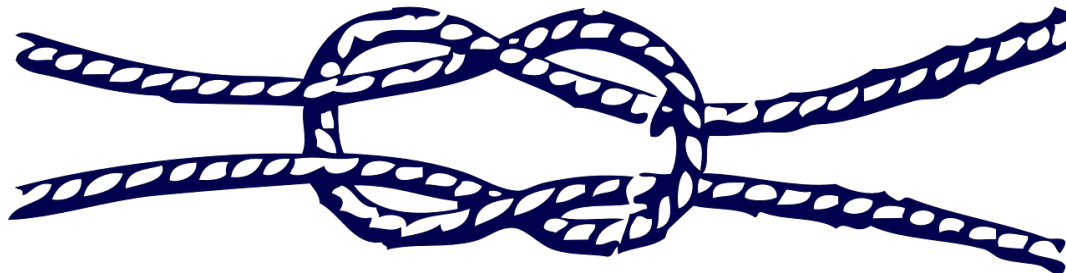
** We do not teach business skills (out of scope at IK)

UpLeveling Your Career



UpLeveling & The Interview Process to Thrive

Domain
Skills
(Technical)
Functional
Skills
(Technical)



Career
Skills
(Behavioral)

**Getting
Interviews**

Career

**Tech Phone
Screen**

Functional
+
Domain

Onsite

Functional
+ Career +
Domain

**Offer +
Transition**

Career

The importance in the decision making process

EARLY CAREER

Specific technical strategies:
Recursion

Specific behavioral strategies: talking
about a project

CODING



DOMAIN



SOFT SKILLS



MID CAREER

Same technical strategies: Recursion still
found

Same behavioral strategies: talking about
projects still found

HIGHER BAR FOR WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE



LATE CAREER

Same technical strategies: Recursion still
found

Same behavioral strategies: talking about
projects still found

HIGHER BAR FOR WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE



IK's Curriculum Calibration

Key Take-Away

- All patterns are calibrated to L3 - L7 ICs and L6-L8 Mgrs
- Calibrated to upleveling the quality of company you're working at
- Calibrated to North American job searches

IK is NOT Ideal For...

- Beginner Coders
 - You need to be able to translate pseudocode into code in one language
 - You cannot be looking for your first job in tech
 - It is okay to not have done coding recently, if done in the past
 - It is okay to not have done DS/Algos previously
- For anyone hoping to switch into a new domain just by cracking an interview in that new domain
- For anyone wanting/hoping for shortcuts and gaming the process.

IK's Curriculum - Common Flagship Elements

DS/Algorithms

- Generic Problem Solving Methods using Sorting
- Recursion/Backtracking pattern
- Trees and its variants
- Graphs and its variants
- Dynamic Programming pattern

** Common coding curriculum across all technical domains

** Common coding curriculum across seniority levels and across companies

** Language agnostic instruction for DS/Algos

Career Skills

- Getting more interviews
 - Organizing a job search
 - LinkedIn & Resume
- Optimizing Interview Performance
 - Behaviors
 - Grading & Audits
- Offer Negotiation

** Career skills curriculum designed as frameworks that can be customized to your situation

Backend Engineering	Frontend Engineering	Machine Learning	Data Engineering
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scalable Distributed Systems 1- Scalable Distributed Systems 2- Object Modeling- Concurrency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- JS Language & Libraries- UI & DOM- Frontend System Design- Elective Frontend- Scalable Distributed Systems- Object Modeling- Concurrency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regression- Classification- Unsupervised Learning- Deep Learning I & II- Scalable Distributed Systems- Object Modeling- Concurrency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SQL Programming- Data Modelling- ETL & Pipeline Design- Data Platforms- Scalable Distributed Systems- Concurrency
Data Science	Cyber Security	Site Reliability Engineering	Embedded Systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Statistical Analysis - I & II- SQL Programming- Supervised Learning- Unsupervised Learning and Deep Learning- Time Series Forecasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Applied Cryptography- Network Security- System & Appl. Security- Security Themed Coding and Code Review- Secure System Design and Security Policies- Scalable Distributed Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scalable Distributed Systems- Concurrency- Unix/Linux System & Networking- Container-Orchestration System- Configuration Management, CI/CD, and Cloud (AWS)- Monitoring, Analyzing, and Troubleshooting Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Designing and Developing Embedded Systems- Microcontroller Units- Programming for Embedded Devices- Embedded OS- Embedded Linux

The Curriculum for each Masterclass contains Domain/Role specific Prep

Product Manager (Tech)	Technical Program Manager	Test Engineer	Cloud Solutions Architect
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strategy, Estimation, Hypothetical- Technical Design & Analytics- Product Design, Execution, and Case Studies- Behavioral Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- KickOff, Planning & Execution- Technical Design & Analytics- Program Sense & Mgmt.- AWS Cloud Services- Computer Networking- Cloud Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scalable Distributed Systems- Test Planning & Mgmt.- API Testing- Automation Framework- Performance, Stress and Agile Testing- Scalable Test Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scalable Distributed Systems- Object Modeling- Concurrency- AWS Cloud Services- Computer Networking- Cloud Infrastructure- Security and Migration
Android Engineer	IOS Engineer	Early Engineer	Manager (Leadership)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scalable Distributed Systems- Object Modeling- Concurrency- Android Programming - I & II- Android System Design - I & II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scalable Distributed Systems- Object Modeling- Concurrency- iOS Programming - I & II- iOS System Design - I & II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coding- Soft Skills, 0-2 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Everything in a domain- Motivation & Values- People & Leadership- Planning, Prioritizing & Business Strategy- General Leadership & Self-growth

IK's Curriculum - Set to help you accomplish your goals

Let UpLevel be your guide

- We work closely with HMs and recruiters at competitive companies to understand the interview process
- We customize your schedule based on your career goals
 - This is to help you secure and succeed in interviews
 - AND (more importantly) to give you the skills needed to succeed on the job
- Follow your UpLevel schedule to uplevel in your career

*** If you don't know what domain, reach out to your SSA and they will have you fill out an assessment to determine*

Closer Look: Functional Skills

Classes cover topics with the biggest bang for the time spent

Videos cover other topics

- Topics less favored in interviews e.g.
 - Bitwise operators
 - Named algorithms
e.g. Bellman Ford
- Topics that take the same time for most people to learn on their own e.g.
 - Linked Lists

Programming Languages

- Language-specific instruction for language-specific domains
- Language agnostic instruction for everything else (including coding)
- Uplevel supports all major programming languages
- We do NOT support proprietary languages eg. salesforce, SAP etc.

Clouser Look: Careers Skills

Why, What

- Get more interviews
 - Identify YOUR tier 1 and tier 2 opportunities
 - Build a professional brand to sell you into and through interviews
- Optimizing Interview Performance
 - Behavioral interview patterns
 - Other behaviors assessed during technical interviews
 - Grading and Self-Audits
- Offer Negotiation
 - Assessing opportunities
 - Making the right decision based on your priorities at this stage in your career and life

Optimize what we can control

- Communication
 - ✓ Past experience
 - ✓ Problem-solving
- Technical preparation
- Behavioral preparation

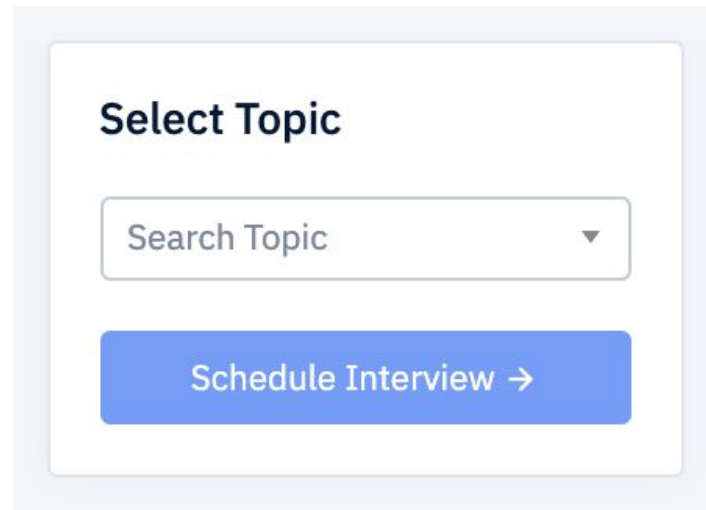
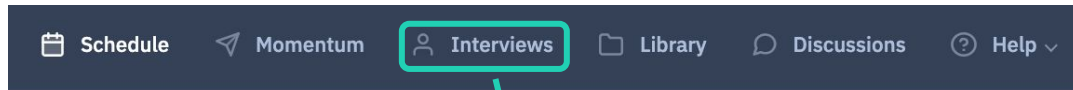
Outside of your control

- Questions asked
- People involved
 - ✓ Interviewers
 - ✓ Other Candidates
- Their decision

Mock Interviews

What are they?

- 1hr 1:1 sessions
- Simulate a real interview and provide **practice & detailed feedback**
- Scheduled by you for any topic:
Coding, System Design,
Behavioral, and Domain
 - Single topic
 - Multiple topics
 - (Not specific companies)
- 15 mock interviews for all domains
** *Early career - 9*

A white modal box with a light gray border. At the top, it says 'Select Topic'. Below that is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search Topic' and a downward arrow icon. At the bottom is a blue button with the text 'Schedule Interview →'.

Mock Interviews Scoring

Detailed **feedback** from Top Tier Senior Engineers to help you know where you are at

Grading calibration from Google, Amazon, LinkedIn

We're preparing you to *thrive* at these companies, not just to get in

Technical & Behavioral Score

4 = Inspirational

3 = Good enough!

2+ = Good effort, wasn't good enough

2 = Tried, but stopped at Brute Force solution

1 = Completely off

Detailed Feedback form

What if you already have interviews scheduled?

Great news that you get outreach!
(Do not worry if you are not; we will support you here)

Stall recruiters (indefinitely)

- “I’m very interested in Company A”
- “Now is not a good time”
- “I will contact you”
- Connect/ Get contact information

Why this works - recruiter incentives

- They want you to pass, not to interview

Exceptions to the rule (you may want to proceed and not stall)

- Unemployed & on visa and/or in financial hardship
- Directors and above
- Fresh grad in hiring window cycle

Every Masterclass Program

What is it?

- One week per topic
- 10 to 16 weeks
 - ** Security, iOS, and Android in review, may take longer*
- 6 month support period (membership) after the final week of class
- 8-10 month program in total

How much time does it need per week?

- Minimum: 12-15 hrs/wk
- Ideal: 20-30 hrs/wk

Accelerated Pace

What is it?

- Only available for the common elements (Coding & Career Skills)
- Same curriculum
- All content unlocked with past cohort recordings so you can go faster
 - Flexibility to attend the live classes with your cohort
- Coding and Career taken concurrently
- 6-month support period (as usual)

How much time does it need per week?

- 40+ hrs/wk
- Only available for the unemployed/ in between jobs

I want to do it!

- operations@interviewkickstart.com
(or @IK-Operations on Discord)

Extended Pace

What is it?

- Same curriculum but a slower pace of technical program delivery
- 2 weeks per topic, live classes
- Available for coding and career skills only

How much time does it need per week?

- 12-15 hrs/week - especially useful for those working full time and without an urgent timeline to change jobs

I want to do it!

- operations@interviewkickstart.com
(or @IK-Operations on Discord)

Pace Comparison

	Accelerated Pace	<i>Default Pace</i>	Extended Pace*
Support Period duration	<i>6 months</i>	<i>6 months</i>	4 months
Format	Recordings, live class option	Live class + Recording	Live class + Recording
Time Required	40+ hrs/wk	<i>20-30 hrs/wk (min. 12-15)</i>	12-15 hrs/wk
Action Required?	Email operations@ by payment deadline	<i>Pay by payment deadline</i>	Email operations@ by payment deadline

Break - 5 min!

Welcome back!

- 8. A typical week (in UpLevel)
- 9. Coaching
- 10. Myth busting about IK
- 11. Why IK works
- 12. Next steps
- 13. Q&A

Typical week on UpLevel

THU 11 JUN	<div><div><></div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>Trees Foundation 04:42:55</div><div>View Foundation Videos & Take the Quiz for Reinforcement</div></div> <div>Since the beginning ▾</div>
SUN 14 JUN	<div><div>🕒</div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>10:20 AM - 4:00 PM</div><div>Live Trees Class with Tom</div><div>Attend the Class</div></div>
	<div><div><></div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>Trees Practice - Problem Set 1</div><div>Complete Practice Problems</div></div>
	<div><div>💬</div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>Class Feedback</div><div>Give us Feedback</div></div>
THU 18 JUN	<div><div><></div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>7:20 PM - 8:30 PM</div><div>Trees Timed Test</div><div>Attempt Timed Test</div></div>
	<div><div>🕒</div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>8:20 PM - 9:30 PM</div><div>Live Trees Timed Test Review Class with Akshay</div><div>Attend Test Class</div></div>
	<div><div>💬</div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>Test Review Class Feedback</div><div>Give us Feedback</div></div>
MON 3 AUG	<div><div><></div><div>TREES AND ITS VARIANTS</div><div>Trees Practice - Problem Set 2</div><div>Complete Practice Problems</div></div>

1. Foundation Material (4-10 hrs)
2. Class (5-6 hrs, with breaks)
3. Practice Problems & Assignments (4-10 hrs)
4. Test/Assignment Review Class (1-2 hrs)
 - 1 topic per week
 - Items **released on the day** listed
 - **Recordings** for all sessions available on Uplevel
 - Cycle repeats for each topic

Expectations

1. Do the Foundational Material before Class
2. Attend Class
 - ✓ Class sizes can range from <10 students - 90+ based on how common is the topic, and will likely vary as you move through the course
3. Attempt at least **1 problem every day**
 - ✓ Emphasis on attempt - not all test cases have to pass
 - ✓ It's ok if you don't get to all the problems
 - ✓ You can revisit/ attempt more problems in the support period
4. **Take timed test/review**
 - ✓ Even if you are not feeling confident, it is important to get the data point
5. Do **1 mock interview** in first 2 months
 - ✓ Accelerated Program: 1 mock interview in the first month
 - ✓ Like tests, the goal is to build awareness, not to pass
6. Get support when you need

Myth Busting

Myth:

“Just attending classes is enough, I don’t need to do other things offered by the course.”

Reality:

Only attending classes will not get you to where you want to go.

Class, practice, reflection are all mandatory if you want to develop the skills required to succeed in interviews.

Coaching Support

Technical Coaching

- Help with solving practice problems or any extra help if the class was too fast for you
- Unlimited use throughout program
- Sign-up for one session at a time
- Provide a specific question to discuss

HELP

- <> Technical Coaching
- 📅 Career Coaching
- 🗨 Mock Interviews
- 🔍 Technical FAQs
- 🔗 IK Connect
- 📶 IK Rise
- 🗨 Urgent Conversations

MY SCHEDULE / TECHNICAL COACHIN...

Technical Coaching Sessions

[Coding TC Session signup sheet](#)

[System Design TC Session signup sheet](#)

What is Technical Coaching and when can I use it?

Technical Coaching sessions are optional sessions led by an IK coach. Sessions happen every day (except some holidays) and often multiple times a day. There is no limit on how many times you can go. Please use them wisely.

Do I have to sign up in advance or can I drop-in and listen?







We recommend signing up for a slot if you have a question you want to discuss. Please note that while you are welcome to listen in, this slot is reserved for specific questions or comments, feel free to communicate through the chat.

Coaching Support

Career Coaching

- Help with career advice and to supplement Career Skills Classes (recruiters at top companies)
- Unlimited use throughout program
- Sign-up for one session at a time
- Provide a specific question to discuss

HELP

- <> Technical Coaching
-  Career Coaching
-  Mock Interviews
-  Technical FAQs
-  IK Connect
-  IK Rise
-  Urgent Conversations

Career Coaching Sessions

Coaching:


[Career Coaching Sessions Signup Sheet](#)

Classes:

[Career Skills Class Schedule & Signup Sheet](#)

[Interview Strategy and Success Debrief Session](#)

[Resume Debrief Session](#)



Coaching Support

Student Success Advocates (SSAs)

- Help with anything outside technical & career: time management, study skills, motivation
- Available 7 days/week
- They will be reaching out to connect with you this week

How to use coaching effectively

- You get to decide when & how often
- With this flexibility comes responsibility
 - ✓ If you're struggling, reach out
 - ✓ Sign up for a coaching session (or connect with your peers)
- Coaches as support not saviors
 - ✓ We will not do the work for you
 - ✓ We will not give you "the answer", even for technical questions
 - ✓ We will work with you to help you find your way forward

Myth Busting

Myth

“I am being taught 1:1 in the program”

Reality - It's a mix, with real advantages to each:

Full cohort

- Classes
- Test Review Classes

1:1 with others listening in

- Coaching sessions

1:1

- Mock Interviews
- Offer Negotiation Calls

Myth Busting

Myth

“IK doesn’t help with problems outside the curriculum”

Reality

We provide support for both the IK curriculum as well as outside needs

- Technical coaching
- Career coaching

(Make sure you have finished IK’s curriculum first though)

Myth Busting

Myth

“I will be ready for ‘Google’ in 2 months”

Reality

Rarely happens, and it’s unlikely.

It takes ~250+ hrs or part-time 5 months of work, even for candidates with strong backgrounds

Momentum and mocks validate where you are in your preparation

If you need more time, *please* take it.

Myth Busting

Myth

“100%+ of IK students uplevel”

Reality

Students come to IK with many different goals, priorities, experience and abilities. It is neither fair, nor feasible to measure and pressure everyone on a single outcome. %s and averages don't make sense in education (and health!) anyway.

The only thing an educational institute can do, is to show you a path and support you along the way, as you walk.

If you keep walking on this path, you *will* eventually succeed. *That we know* is 100%.

Myth Busting

Myth

“All IK teachers are equally good”

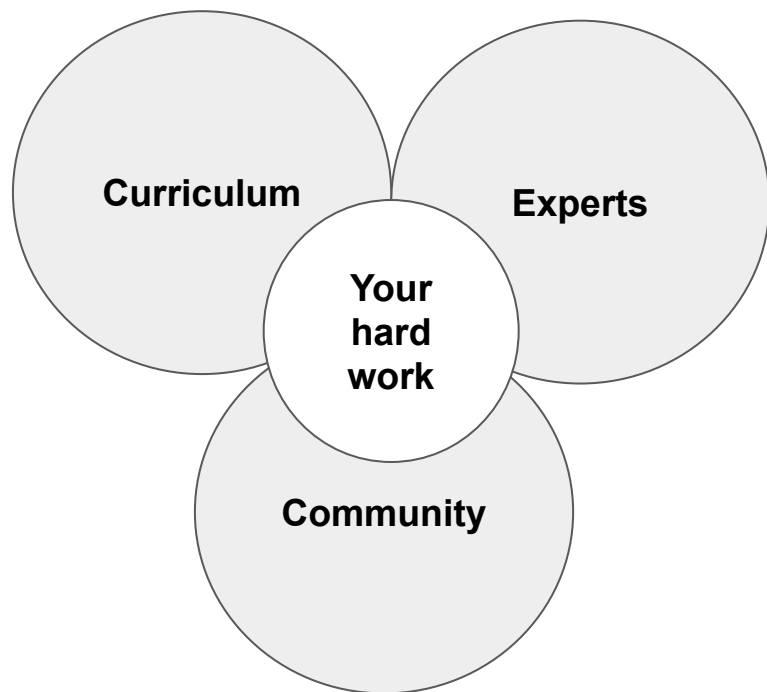
Reality

They are, but you may not appreciate the teaching/communication of each instructor in the same way, despite our high bar and extensive training. There are many reasons for it:

- We don't all learn the same way and we're all at different levels of progress. One person likes an instructor the other person doesn't.
- We expect each instructor to teach our curriculum following a lesson plan, and we give them a lot of feedback. But not everyone follows things to the tee every single time.

This is exactly how every single college/school is. Except their instructors don't work at FAANG+.

Why this works



Curriculum

- Provides Structure

Experts

- Tier 1 Engineers, Recruiters, and Thinkers

Community

- Learn from multiple perspectives
- Refine your WAY of thinking

You need to put in the work

How this builds

- **Foundation Material & Class:** exposure
- **Practice Problems:** attempt problems
- **Tests:** attempt problems within a timed environment
- **Mock interviews:** attempt problems 1:1 within a timed environment & interviewer
- **Career Strategy and Prep**
- **Interviews:** live real practice
- **Top Interviews:** your goal!

Disclaimers

- We will NOT solve or review take-home interviews for you
 - Happy to review after company has made decision
- It is not operationally feasible to fulfill requests be taught by or have content created by specific coaches or instructors.
- In OUR subjective judgment, we reserve the right to ask you to discontinue the program at any time.
- Instructors and coaches won't reveal any confidential information about their workplace e.g. interview questions.
- Free extensions to the support period allowed only for a medical emergency, pregnancy and bereavement; not for anything else, including Visa complications and other things that you believe were not in your hands
 - Paid extensions allowed, but discouraged because it's important to take the positive stress of completing in a certain time
- Programs once started, can't be put on hold or paused
- No refunds for unused portions of any parts of service, including mock interviews.

When It's Over

- You will have a much deeper understanding of:
 - System Design
 - Leadership Interviews
 - Coding Fundamentals
- You will be much more confident in interviews
 - The only way to be more confident in interviews is to be more confident in your job
- And once you're more confident in your job
 - We'd love to have you join us in coaching the next crop of technical leaders

Welcome to Interview Kickstart!

This will not always be easy...

... trust the process...

...your experience is important to us and we want you to succeed...

... if you need any help or have any feedback on how we can improve, let us know ...

...you are in good hands...

...AND we're all in this together!

Next Steps

- Welcome to week 1!
- Orientation Feedback - let us know how this was for you
- Complete **Onboarding Videos & Form** - if not yet done
- Join **Discord** ASAP via Uplevel
 - Discord Tutorial
 - Discord Invite
- Complete **Foundation Material** before your first class

Questions & Answers

SLIDE TO ADD

WHAT IS UPLEVELING?

WHAT IS UPSKILLING?

The importance in the decision making process

Early Career

- Coding: 9/10
- Domain: 1/10
- Soft skills: 4/10

Mid Career

- Coding: 7/10
- Domain: 6/10
- Soft skills: 7/10

Late career

- Coding: 3/10
- Domain: 9/10
- Soft skills: 9/10

Early Career

- Specific technical strategies
 - ✓ Recursion
- Specific behavioral strategies
 - ✓ Talking about a project

Mid Career

- Same technical strategies (ie recursion still found)
- Same behavioral strategies (ie talking about projects still found)
- Higher bar for what is acceptable

Late Career

- Same technical strategies (ie recursion still found)
- Same behavioral strategies (ie talking about projects still found)
- Higher bar for what is acceptable

Myth Busting

Myth

“IK personalizes the courses for everyone”

Reality

Yes, feedback is personalized and specific.

You can also pick and choose from Coding, Design and Soft skills courses at enrollment, but that's about it.

There is no further personalization within a given course.

The importance in the decision making process

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- Coding: 9/10
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Mid Career

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Late career

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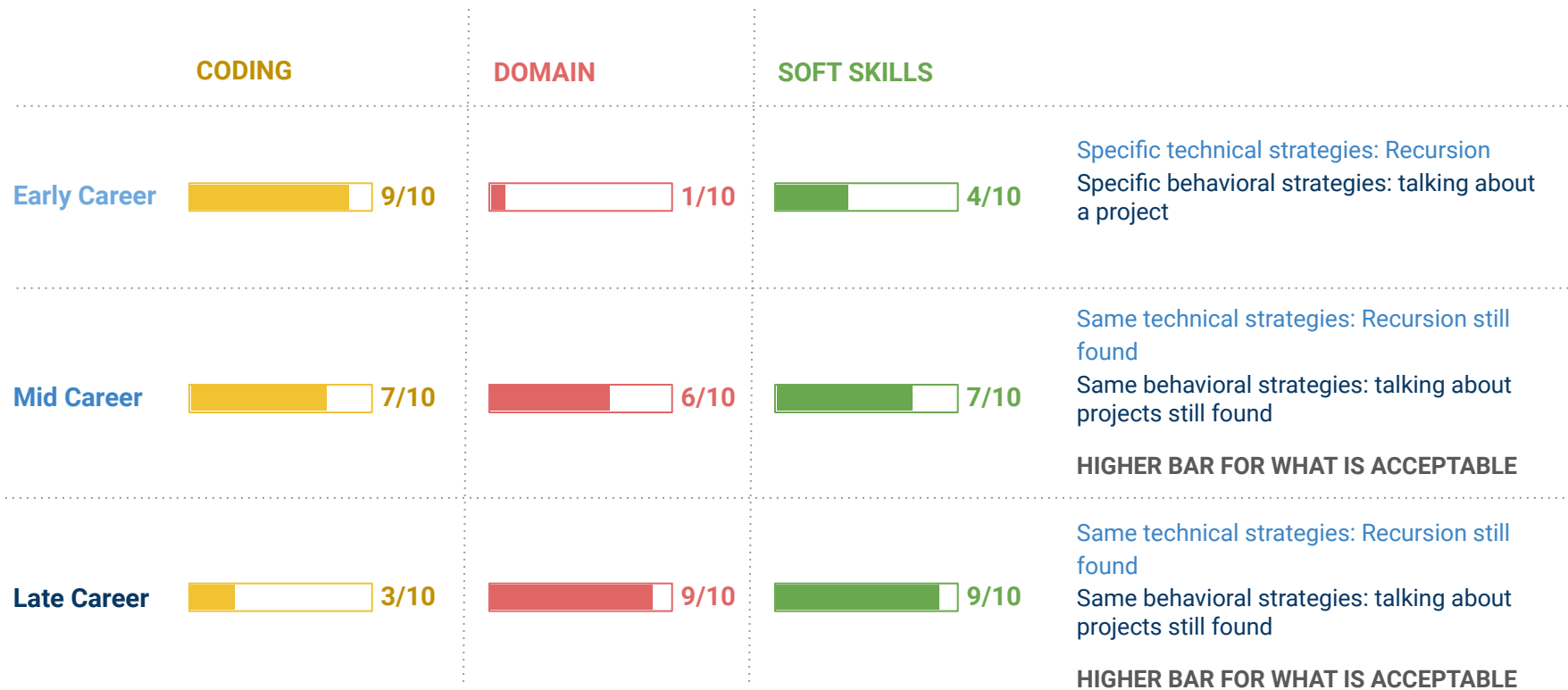
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The importance in the decision making process



The importance in the decision making process

