#### Challis Regan

### Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

#### Reflection Questions

1. **What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?**
   1. An object-relational mapper (ORM) changes the structure and contents of a database into things that can be directly interacted with, such as objects and classes. This makes database conversion easier because you don’t have to use SQL syntax in the middle of an object-oriented Python file.
2. **By this point, you’ve finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What’s something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what’s something about your app that you would change or improve?**
   1. I think creating the Recipe app went well overall. I was mostly good with following the instructions and working through any bugs. It’s difficult to answer what I would change or improve, because this lesson was mainly about learning and the next achievement’s project will be a client-facing app. I am glad I got to learn the basics of Python in this lesson. For the client-facing app, I plan to make more interesting recipes and a nice UI/UX.
3. **Imagine you’re at a job interview. You’re asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.**
   1. I built a Python command line application for a Recipe app. It creates, reads, updates and deletes recipes, as well as searches for recipes based on ingredients. It is connected to a MySQL database and is written using object-oriented programming. Also, I am going to use this app as the foundation to develop a fully-fledged web application using Django, which will have multiple users and an admin panel.
4. **You’ve finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:** 
   1. What went well during this Achievement?
      1. Learning Python and practicing interview questions with the learning journals.
   2. What’s something you’re proud of?
      1. I feel like I am able to see the connections and similarities between different programming languages better now. Picking up a new language is relatively easy once you understand the fundamentals.
   3. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
      1. It was challenging to change the way I was writing my files so frequently. For example, switching from object-oriented programing, to SQL scripting back to object-oriented with SQLAlchemy. But I understand it is a good learning experience to know how to do things different ways.
   4. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
      1. I noticed the format of the specialty courses is slightly different than the Full-Stack Immersion. For example, FSI had bonus assignments throughout the achievements that correlated with the optional advanced deliverables in the achievement project brief. I was surprised that there were no bonus tasks added to the Python lessons. But overall, I feel confident that I learned Python skills.
   5. What’s something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?
      1. Going forward, I will re-read the achievement document more frequently to see when I should work on the bonus assignments.

### Pre-Work: Before You Start Achievement 2

In the final part of the learning journal for Achievement 1, you were asked if there’s anything—on reflection—that you’d keep in mind and do similarly or differently during Achievement 2. Think about these questions again:

* Was your study routine effective during Achievement 1? If not, what will you do differently during Achievement 2?
  + My study routine was OK, but could use some improvements. It is hard to balance other responsibilities with school but I need to make it work. I need to have more dedicated block of study time.
* Reflect on your learning and project work for Achievement 1. What were you most proud of? How will you repeat or build on this in Achievement 2?
  + I am proud of making this command line recipe app. I liked adding the formatting to make the main menu more readable. I want to build a nice UI/UX in the next Achievement.
* What difficulties did you encounter in the last Achievement? How did you deal with them? How could this experience prepare you for difficulties in Achievement 2?
  + I ran into a few bugs, as one does. In the last task, my calc\_difficulty function was broken. I made at least one recipe per category (Easy, Medium, Intermediate and Difficult) but when I tested it was classifying an Easy recipe as Medium. After some troubleshooting, I realized I needed to convert the ingredients into a list for this function. I try to remember the past errors I had and how to fix them in the future.

Note down your answers and discuss them with your mentor in a call if you like.

Remember that can always refer to [Exercise 1.4](https://careerfoundry.com/en/steps/your-cf-team#receiving-support) of the Orientation course if you’re not sure whom to reach out to for help and support.