Instructor Kickoff

Welcome to Flatiron School!

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Agenda

- Warm-up & Introductions
- Your Support Team
- Program Tools
- Program Structure & Schedule
- Setting Yourself Up For Success

Warm-up 🔥

- Introduce yourself:
  - Name
  - Pronouns
  - Where you are located
- Share a book, podcast, movie, or TV show you've enjoyed recently.

Your Support Team

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I’m your instructor 👋

What I do:

- Conduct sessions on core curriculum
- Administer and grade assessments
- Deliver feedback on coursework and progress

Daniel Burdeno

He/Him

Your Support Teams

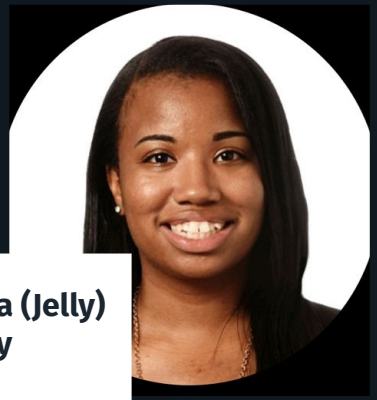
Technical Support:

- **Instructors:** Deliver lectures, conduct assessments, and provide feedback on coursework and progress
- **Pair with a Technical Coach:** Support on labs and projects (nights and weekends only)

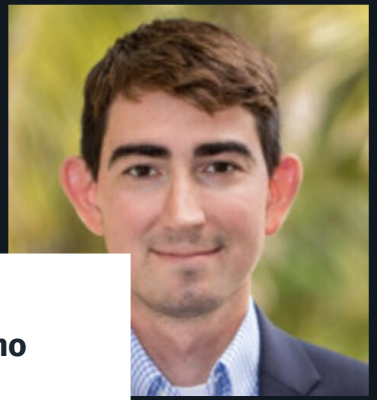
Non-Technical Support:

- **Student Advisors:** One-on-one support during your program
- **Career Coaches:** One-on-one support after graduation
- **Community Team:** Slack channels, newsletters, and events to help you connect with others and build your network

The Squad

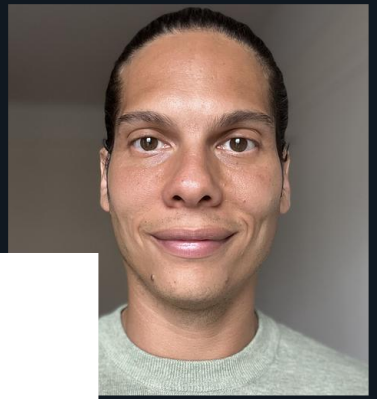


Angelica (Jelly) Spratley



Daniel Burdeno

Praveen Gowtham



Joseph Mata

Instructors and Technical Coaches

- Able to support during specified hours
  - Instructors = Work day
  - Technical Coach = Nights and weekends
- Exceptions include meetings, supporting events, lunch, and prep time.
- Instructional team will give you constructive feedback on code and professional skills.
  - They will not necessarily hand you the answer - but they'll guide you.

Program Tools

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Discord

Important channels to know:

- #ds-ntl-040124
- #all-about-data
- #announcements
- #events

Reminders:

Update your server profile:

- Photo (optional!)
- First name and last name
- Get roles!

Complete your onboarding (visit Server Guide)

Download the desktop app!

Our Code of Conduct applies to Discord. This is a part of our community but we can't be everywhere at once. Please let us know if you're ever uncomfortable with something that was said or the way something was said.

Canvas

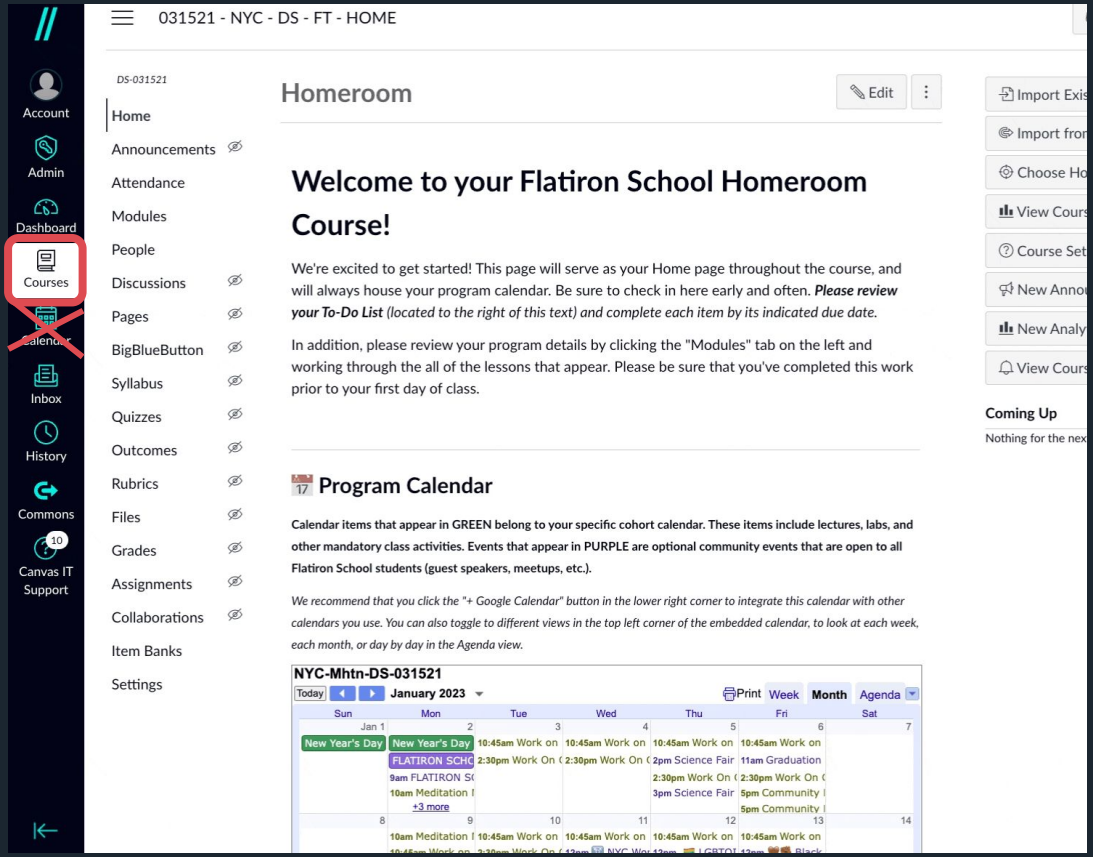
Flatiron School uses Canvas, a learning management system, to deliver our program and technical content.

Homeroom Course

General information, resources, and your calendar

Phase Courses

Lessons, labs, assessments, and blogs



FYI: Here's your calendar!

Pair with a Technical Coach

What?

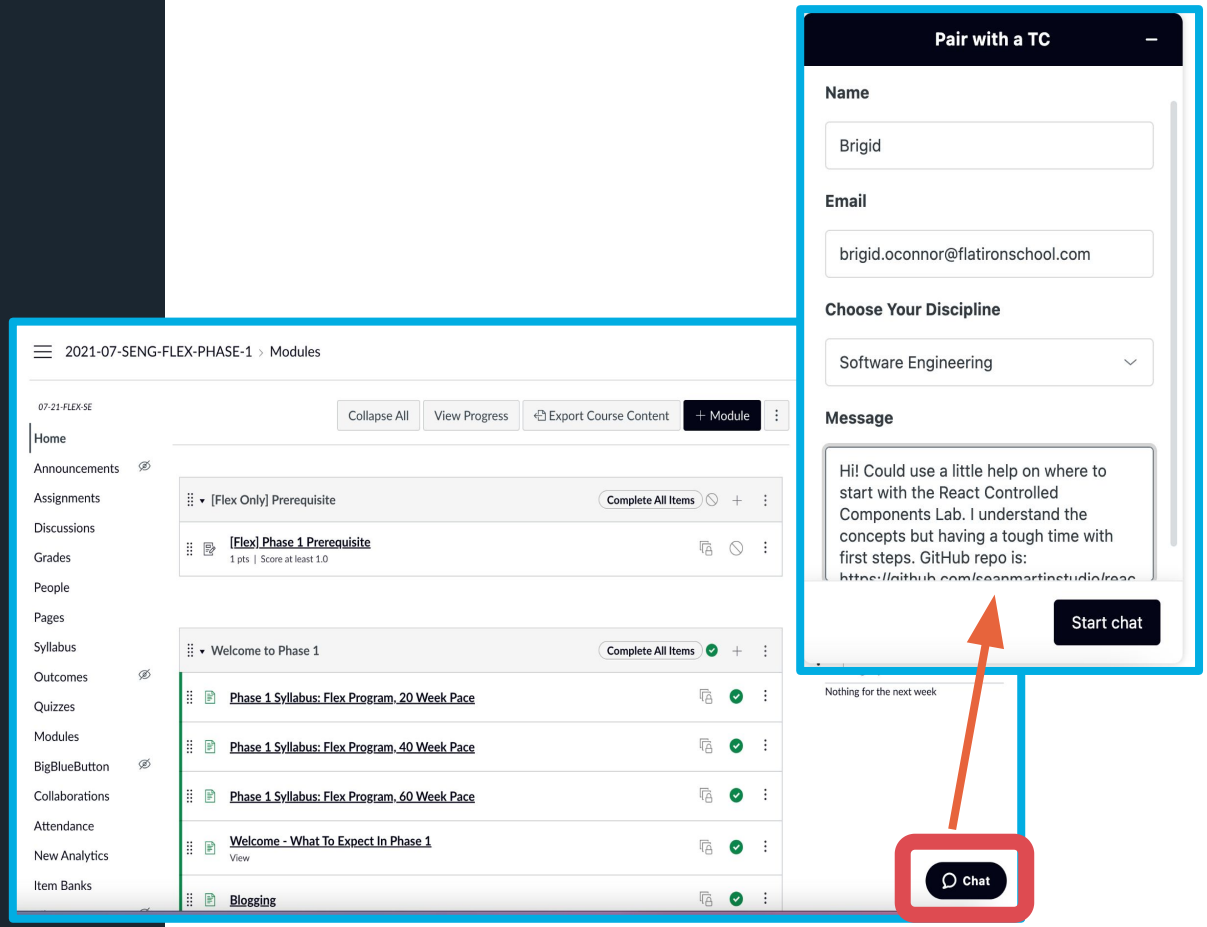
- General comprehension
- Technical support for platforms and applied learning tools
- Getting “unstuck” in labs
- Cannot help with anything assessment-related

When?

Nights and weekends:

- Weekdays: 6pm - midnight ET
- Weekends: 9am - midnight ET

How? Zendesk chatbot in Canvas



Expectations when working with our TCs:

What Students Can Expect from TCs

- There will likely be a wait time.
- Screen sharing and pair programming.
- You likely won't work with a TC all the way through to completing a lab or a final solution. You can always pop back in if you get stuck again!
- The TC team syncs up with the rest of the instructional staff at Flatiron School to share feedback.

What TCs Expect from Students

- **Be kind.** We know you might be frustrated or under stress, and we are here to help you succeed.
- **Be patient.** We support a lot of students, and it's hard to predict wait times. We're working as diligently as we can to get through the queue.
- **Be collaborative.** We aren't going to code for you, or give you the answers straight away. It's all a part of the learning process!

Ada

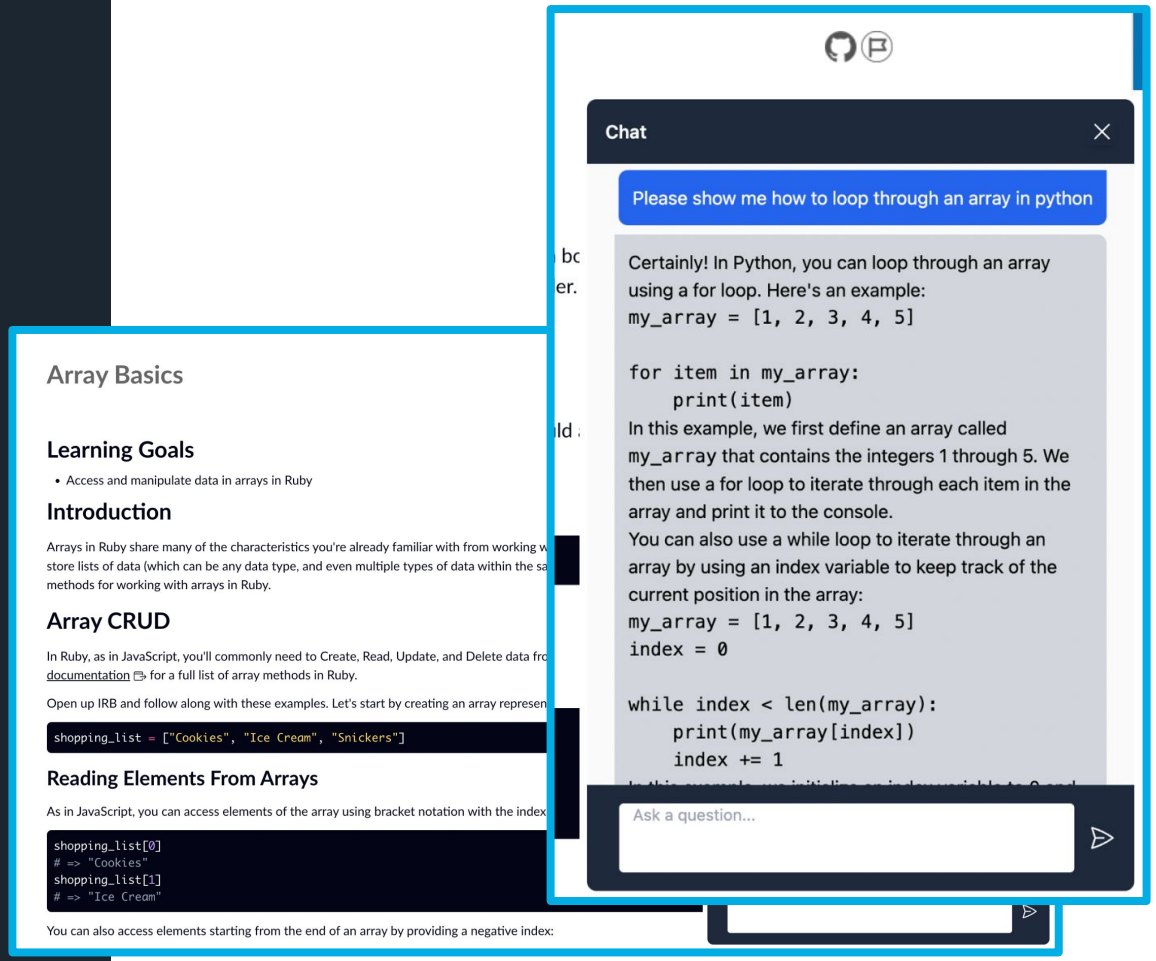
Meet our chat bot, powered by OpenAI

- Tailored prompts
- Asks questions and uses analogies, diagrams, code samples
- Guides you toward solution

When?

- Use when Pair with a Technical Coach option is unavailable

How? Chat box in Canvas



Program Structure & Schedule

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Program Timeline

Phase 1

Weeks 1-3

Data Analytics

Phase 2

Weeks 4-6

Statistics

Phase 3

Weeks 7-9

Machine Learning

Phase 4

Weeks 10-12

Advanced Topics

Phase 5

Weeks 13-15

Capstone 🎉

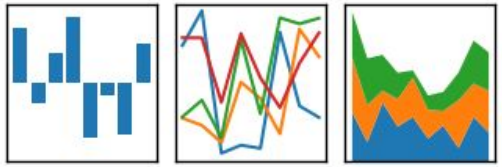
Curriculum Overview

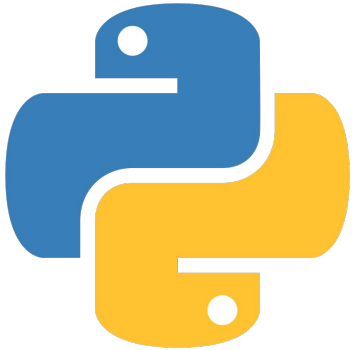
Phase 1

- Coding in Python
- Data Manipulation and Analysis
- Data Gathering
- Data visualization + Tableau

pandas

$$y_{it} = \beta' x_{it} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$$





Curriculum Overview

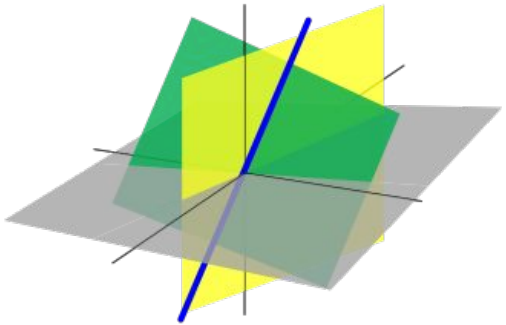
Phase 2

- Coding in SQL
- Statistical Modeling
- Hypothesis testing
- Simple Linear Regression

Curriculum Overview

Phase 3

- The Math behind Machine Learning
- Classification Algorithms
- Building Modeling Pipelines



Curriculum Overview

Phase 4

- Recommendation Systems
- Natural Language Processing
- Neural Networks

Curriculum Overview

Phase 5

- Capstone!
- 2-3 Week Solo
- Project of choice

The Next 15 Weeks

Lessons and Labs

Learn the fundamentals. **You do NOT need to complete all labs and lessons** - but going through most is essential to passing the code challenges and creating projects.

Blogs

Each phase you will write a technical blog to practice technical writing and communication skills. These also bolster your online presence for the job search. **(Optional)**

Code Challenges

Week 2 of phases 1-4 you will take a code challenge. Each student gets a second attempt to pass a different code challenge in the event they fail the first attempt. **(Required!)**

Projects

In week 3 of phase 1-4, you will build a project to practice all of the concepts from the phase and build your portfolio for the job search. Phase 5 consists of 3 weeks to build a cumulative capstone project. **(Required!)**

Plagiarism & Cheating

Lessons and Labs

Remember that you're here to learn and while you can use any resource you desire, copy/pasting code doesn't help you prepare for assessments, interviews, or jobs.

Blogs

Don't plagiarize! Using another entity's work without attribution is plagiarism!

Code Challenges

Allowed:

- Canvas labs, lessons, and lectures
- Your own notes, previous labs, or reviews

Not Allowed:

- Messenger apps
- ChatGPT and other AIs

Projects

Don't plagiarize! Using another entity's work without attribution is plagiarism!

If using code from another source, it needs to be cited and you need to understand how it is being used.

Get your blog on!

- Approximately 5 minute read
- Published online
- Technical or tech related subjects
- Recommended to write a blog per phase

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Setting Yourself Up for Success!

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This isn’t like high school or college!

Teaching Methods

- 1:1 instructor meetings
- Office hours
- Lectures (live and recorded)
- Curriculum (lessons and labs)

Student Responsibilities

- Attending and watching Lectures
- Canvas course completion
- Code Challenges
- Projects

Professional Development

- Online branding (LinkedIn)
- Resume and portfolio building
- Networking

Personal Empowerment Protocol:

1. Read the error
2. Google the problem
3. Ask a peer
4. Ask an instructor

- This is an important framework in general for debugging / working through problems.
- Remote learning makes it even more vital!
- Reading errors, looking up problems, and collaborating with peers are essential skills.
- Get practice with them before asking us!

Imposter Syndrome

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Any questions?

For the rest of today...

Now: Data Science Toolkit Lecture!
- Then jump into canvas
- Environmental setup
- Terminal and Git content

1:00 pm: Lunch Break

3:00 pm ET: Into to Terminal Lecture!

5:00 pm ET: Program Orientation

6:30 pm ET: Stand Down

Get stuck? Post in our cohort Discord channel!