Welcome!

New York Code + Design Academy

Web Development Intensive

What's on the Menu?

1. Course Schedule
2. Graduation Requirements
    1. Attendance
    2. Grades
3. How to Thrive
4. Preparation Checklist

Course Schedule

The Next 12 Weeks

- **Week 1**: Accelerate!
- **Weeks 2 - 4**: Frontend (JavaScript)
- **Weeks 5 - 8**: Backend (Ruby, Databases, and Rails)
- **Week 9**: Group Hackathon
- **Week 10**: Professional Development Week
- **Weeks 11 - 12**: Final Projects

Week 1: Accelerate!

Time to get settled in and get yourself organized

- Start finding resources on your own
- Build your study habits
- Create study groups with classmates
- Establish some healthy sleep habits

Today is the day to clear your calendar of all events for the next 3 months. You will be studying and working late into the evenings, and weekends will be full of code. You'll be out of the social spotlight for a while, but it will all be worth it!

Weeks 2 - 4: Frontend (Javascript)

All JavaScript, all the time!

We'll dive head first into programming with JavaScript. You'll build your skills with the fundamentals, then move into advanced concepts like Object Oriented Programming, Cookies, and APIs. There will be plenty of homework and workshops to stretch those programming muscles.

Extra effort is crucial. It is deceptively easy to fall behind. Don't let that happen! Stay late and find a study buddy. Slack and Google are your new best friends. Binge watch tutorials instead of Netflix.

A few words from a WDI graduate...

The balance between tutorials, homework, portfolio, and group projects is a very slippery slope. One of those priorities WILL fall behind, and finding that cadence is essential.

– Mike W.

Weeks 5 - 8: Backend (Ruby, Databases, and Rails)

Let's take it to the next level!

We'll start this week off with a new programming language - Ruby! Then we'll discover what's happening behind the scenes with databases. Frameworks are fun, and we'll start with a lightweight one called Sinatra, then build up to an "enterprise" framework called Rails.

This unit will involve both group projects and pair programming.

Week 9: Group Hackaton

Final group project!

No lectures this week because you'll be working solely on an app you and your group members decide on. You'll pitch and present your idea to your instructor for approval. Before you start to code, you'll provide sketches, wireframes, feature ideas, an MVP, and design ideas.

When you get the green light, it's time to code! Your group will have to communicate effectively to ensure your time is used wisely.

You will be holding daily meetings with your instructor to ensure your group is on the right track. You'll present this project to the class as a group to prepare for final projects!

A few words from a WDI graduate...

When you work with someone, make sure to run through your code with them, and have them do the same with you, in detail. You'll understand it more as you explain it to them, and the more you read through and learn their code, the better you'll be at understanding how other people tackle problems. Actually, don't just do this with people you work with directly, do this as much as you can.

– Gwen C.

Week 10: Professional Development Week

This week is full of advanced topics and test driven development!

This week, you will refine your skills and learn a few more. You'll get ready to graduate by reviewing your grades, and start working on your professional portfolio to send to employers. We'll help you craft a portfolio that reflects you as a developer professionally, but with personality!

Weeks 11 & 12: Final Projects

It's all about you now! Showcase your talent in this final project and graduation presentations.

These two weeks are vital to your success. This is the time for you to push yourself beyond what you were taught in the program to make something amazing! You will once again pitch your project to your instructor with wireframes and more.

Course Schedule

Questions?

Graduation Requirements

What does graduation mean?

Graduation means you have met our standards for...

- **Attendance**
- **Grades**
- **Participation**

If you do **not** graduate, you will **not** receive career services, participate in final presentations, or be included in the final employer showcase.

Attendance

Attendance

Maintain an attendance grade of 80% or higher *at all times*, including the last day of class.

You must be in your seat and prepared before class starts at **10AM**, and stay until class ends at **6PM**.

If you have to be late, you are responsible for looking at the day's slides and other students' notes to see what you missed.

If you are done before the end of the day, find a tutorial to watch, work on past assignments or help a classmate.

Why is attendance so important?

If you miss a day, you miss a week

We will cover a heavy amount of concepts in one day. If this was easy, everyone would do it!

It looks good on your resume

Employers often reach out to the school and instructors for reference when hiring a graduate. They will want to know grades and attendance rate to gauge if you'd be a reliable candidate.

It helps you stay happy and connected

If you're in the classroom, you can participate more easily. You're here with TAs, instructors, and fellow classmates who can help with technical issues, camaraderie, and accountability!

When in doubt, communicate

We understand that life happens sometimes. As soon as you know you'll be late or absent, notify your instructor. We will work with you, but we need you to reach out to us!

Radio silence is bad for everyone

If you miss class for **3 days in a row with no communication**, you will be automatically dropped.

Attendance

Questions?

Grades

Grades

Have a COMPLETE on *each and every assignment/ project*, including final projects, by the final day of class.

All assignments and projects are graded on a **COMPLETE** vs. **INCOMPLETE** basis.

In other words: Either it works the way it's supposed to, or it doesn't!

Incomplete -> Complete

The assignments and projects are meant to challenge you. A grade of Complete means you have demonstrated understanding of the concept and executed skills effectively.

- **Complete**: Nice!
- **Incomplete**: Learn from the feedback, improve, and RESUBMIT for your Complete grade!

This is a skill-based program.
Your mission is to develop those skills!

How to Thrive

How to Thrive

1. Believe in Yourself
2. Face Your Fears
3. Do the Work
4. Find the Fun

Believe in Yourself

Don't believe that little voice in your head that tells you it's too hard, you won't ever get this. It's a lie. All coding is just simple things built into more complex things. If you are not getting something, try to break it down into simple terms, and build from there.

– Ashley R., WDI Graduate

Face Your Fears

The most elementary and valuable statement in science, the beginning of wisdom, is:
"I do not know."

– Data (the android guy from Star Trek)

"I do not know what that is."

We are all here to learn. Ask questions and lots of them!Chances are the person next to you has the same question.

Have too many questions? Write them down and ask your instructor and classmates to help you find the answers.

Do the Work

- **Read everything forever**
  - Error messages. (Yes, really!)
  - RTFM (**R**ead **T**he **F**riendly **M**anual).
  - Read assignment requirements carefully.
- **Look it up**
  - Slam some words into Google. Skim results for familiar terms or problems that seem similar to yours.

Find the Fun

- Take every opportunity to **play** with what you learn
- When you're experimenting, you don't have to make it do something *useful*. You just have to make it do something!
- Look out for projects and ideas that appeal to you
- Take breaks when you get stuck:
  - Go for a walk
  - Read a book
  - Step away from the screen!

Preparation Checklist

Are you set up in Canvas?

Make sure you are signed into Canvas and in the new course for this class... this will be different than the prework course. You should have received an invite by email in the last week.

Canvas will be where you find your lecture files and submit assignments. You will need to have lecture files up during class to ensure you are following material.

You can download these PDF files too!

Have you downloaded the Slack app?

It is required that you are signed into Slack daily. This is how we will communicate with you regarding academics, attendance, days closed and anything pertaining to class.

Download the Slack app on your desktop. It's free, and we recommend installing it on your phone as well. You don't want to miss out on shared resources (and hilarious gifs)!

Slack setup

Go ahead and set your profile photo and name so we can all get to know one another better! Since you are on Slack you now have access to our entire alumni and instructor network. Many graduates are still active and are happy to help answer questions.

Keep your eye on are the **#questions** channel, too, for additional help, feel free to ask away. You can Direct Message anyone as well.

Are you familiar with your machine?

Make sure you understand your laptop properly. You don't want to fall behind because you are not sure where to access files, apps or your command line.

Mac (OS X) Users

The majority of our students and instructors use OS X devices (Macbooks). If you are new to this system we recommend to make an appointment with the Apple Genius Bar to learn how to navigate effectively.

Windows and Linux Users

If you are working in Windows or Linux (Ubuntu, Debian, et al.) please be aware our instructors may or may not be familar with this system. We recommend you join the **#windows-support-group** or **#linux-support-group**on Slack.

Let's get started!