

Pre-Work: Before You Start the Course

Reflection questions (to complete before your first mentor call)

1. What experiences have you had with coding and/or programming so far? What other experiences (programming-related or not) have you had that may help you as you progress through this course?

Most of my experiences have been really both up and down. There are some days where everything is going smoothly and others where it takes me hours, sometimes days, to fix issues that arise. For the most part I have learned that patience is key. I noticed that no matter how crazy my issue with the code I am working on is, somebody else has experienced the same problem at one point or another and there is a solution for it.

2. What do you know about Python already? What do you want to know?

I don't know too much about Python except for some of the basics. I've taken a couple of intro courses online prior to starting with Career Foundry but nothing too detailed. I would like to know how somebody's knowledge in Python relates to other coding languages.

3. What challenges do you think may come up while you take this course? What will help you face them? Think of specific spaces, people, and times of day of week that might be favorable to your facing challenges and growing. Plan for how to solve challenges that arise.

Some challenges I feel that will come up is learning too much too fast. My goal is to really retain what I am learning with Python. I feel that if I take my time and learn how and why something works as opposed to that it just works will help me in the long run.

Remember, you can always refer to [Exercise 1.4](#) of the Orientation course if you're not sure whom to reach out to for help and support.

Exercise 1.1: Getting Started with Python

Learning Goals

Summarize the uses and benefits of Python for web development

Prepare your developer environment for programming with Python

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, what is the difference between frontend and backend web development? If you were hired to work on backend programming for a web application, what kinds of operations would you be working on?

Front-end web development is for the user's benefit as it concentrates on how the site looks and feels. Back-end is all the work put into the coding to make it all work. I've always compared it to a concert or play. Up on stage you have all the lights and sounds for the audience to see and enjoy (Front-end). But backstage you have dozens of people working to make sure all those lights and sounds work as they are supposed to in order to make the show go off without any issues (Back-end).

2. Imagine you're working as a full-stack developer in the near future. Your team is asking for your advice on whether to use JavaScript or Python for a project, and you think Python would be the better choice. How would you explain the similarities and differences between the two languages to your team? Drawing from what you learned in this Exercise, what reasons would you give to convince your team that Python is the better option?

(Hint: refer to the Exercise section "The Benefits of Developing with Python")

Python uses scripting language and dynamic typing. These both make it easy to read and understand the code being used. This is an advantage as it makes the code easy to understand and use. Built-in packages are another great advantage. With this, you can take advantage of multiple packages that can simplify your work. All of these examples along with the strong community support would be my reasoning for using Python over JavaScript. Python is one of the more popular languages so having a large and strong community to go to for help is very essential.

3. Now that you've had an introduction to Python, write down 3 goals you have for yourself and your learning during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps you. What do you want to learn about Python? What do you want to get out of this Achievement? Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

I wish to learn the total ins and outs of Python. I struggled a bit with JavaScript so I am hoping to get more information and details on how Python works that will help me grasp the Python language. What I want to get out of this achievement is to create an app that any person using wouldn't feel was done by somebody just learning coding. I want the user to believe the app was done by a seasoned web developer. Finally I see myself working on additional projects to practice on my skills after the achievement. I don't have any specific ideas on what to build as of yet but was hoping to ask friends and family what kind of website they would like to see. I was hoping to take some of those ideas and turn them into a real like working site.