CODING NOMADS

21) Next Steps & Certificate Request   Lesson

How to Apply Your Flask Skills

10 min to complete · By Brandon Gigous

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So where to go next? You've learned Flask web development skills. As mentioned so many times, it is important that you keep practicing and applying your skills. That will help you train, remember, and get better at it. But what are other ways to train than following more tutorials?

Ways to Apply Your Flask Skills

Here are some suggestions for you:

Volunteering

People and organizations need web developers! There are lots of causes in the world that deserve more attention. E.g. local organizations that help socially disadvantaged people,

or regional organizations that work for environmental protection.

Very often, such smaller-scale organizations *don't have a dedicated web developer* on their team. And yet, they could greatly benefit from having an online presence. Find an organization that you deem worthy, contact them, and offer to build a website or an API for them. Alternatively you could also offer to help automate some of their workflows with Python through a Flask interface.

Info: Offer to work for them for free. Choose a cause that you care about and use your help as a way for you to keep improving your skills. It's unlikely that they will decline such a nice offer :)

Do something good and build your resume. Create real-world projects, something that people and organizations *actually use*. It's a great thing to point to when you apply for a job down the road.

Friends And Family

Ask around. Nearly everyone at least knows someone who could benefit from someone with web development knowledge. Your skills are in demand, and if you are ready to offer them for free, or for a low fee, people will be excited and thankful. At the same time it gives you an opportunity to practice your craft in real-world situations and build on your portfolio.

Open-Source Contributions

Contributing to **open-source projects** that you love can be a good way to get your name out there and keep your GitHub garden green. Contributions can be small things, such as fixing typos in the documentation of a package you like to use, but you can also grow it into contributing code.

Info: Open-Source might seem intimidating at first. Start by looking for beginner projects that use technologies you are already very familiar with.

Listen to this podcast episode for an in-depth guide and some opinions on why and how to contribute to open source.

Contracting

You can also go ahead and register with an **online contracting website**. Start building your profile, offer your services, and look for jobs that interest you. Keep learning and and get paid for it. Establishing a good relationship with your clients is an important part of delivering great contracting work. There will be some difficulties that you'll encounter related to working remotely. But it's better to practice early!

Contracting can be a great way to earn some money and build a reputation, and it is one of the ways that programmers can live and work remotely. You can also do this at the same time while building out projects in other areas, such as the suggestions mentioned above. With the flexibility of working online and accepting jobs when you want to, it's not an either-or situation.

Applying For A Corporate Job

With the skills you learned in this course, you are ready to get started working in a Junior Developer position. You have valuable skills that can bring a lot of value to a company.

However, there are certain things that make getting a job more difficult, e.g. some obscure practices in coding interviews, but that's just another skill to learn. Practice **interview questions** specifically, join online communities, and utilize resources on the web to get prepared.

Applying For A Startup Job

Similar to the above, there are things you can do to make it more likely to get a job at a startup. Startups are often looking for developers that are ready to do a lot of additional types of work, aside from pure Flask development. Generally, startup hiring can be less rigid than hiring in larger companies.

> 🗼 **Note:** Tasks and positions are often less defined in a startup, which gives you room for growth but can also lead to burn-out. It might be what you're looking for and can be a great way to learn more about your stack and the tech industry in general.

If startups sound exciting, search on Wellfound for startups looking for Flask developers. You can also join startup meetups in your area. Another option is to directly write to that startup you've been interested in for a while.

Your Own Thing

Maybe working as an employee doesn't sound great to you because you want to be your own boss? Maybe you just wanted to learn web development to finally build out your own idea!

With Flask, you've learned a framework that is stable, versatile, and expandable and can fulfill all the needs you might come up with as a digital entrepreneur. Keep in mind that you can outsource tasks to other programmers as well.

> **Info:** Knowing how things work, and being able to assess what is good work and what isn't, is an extremely valuable skill. Just because you know how to program does not mean you need to program everything yourself.

Essentially, if programming is what you love, then stick with doing that. Otherwise leverage your knowledge of the stack and your understanding of what can be done to find great people to do the work you need to get done.

In case you want to continue building out different skills by taking more courses, check out the next page and upcoming links for some suggestions.

Summary: Apply Your Flask Skills

- **Volunteer**: Find a group or cause you believe in and volunteer your skills.

- **Friends and Family**: Ask people you know if they need any tools built for no or low cost.

- **Open-Source**: Contribute to open-source projects your like using yourself.

- **Contracting**: Find freelance contract work through one of the many websites out there.

- **Go Corporate**: Apply to work at a well-established company.

- **Startups**: Apply to startups for roles that often wear more than one hat.

- **Go Your Own Way**: Become an entrepenuer and start your own business.