Recommended Steps:

1. Programming languages: take the following language courses from Codecademy

* Link: <https://www.codecademy.com/>
* Python - have a basic understanding
* Bash/Shell – fully understand
* JavaScript - have a basic understanding
* SQL - have a basic understanding

1. Kali Linux: Linux distribution designed for penetration testing, comes pre-loaded with many tools

* Link: <https://www.kali.org/>
* Install Kali on VirtualBox (VirtualBox is a free virtualization tool)
* Play OverTheWire’s Intro Ware Games to become comfortable with Kali and the command line
  + Link: <http://overthewire.org/wargames/bandit/bandit0.html>

1. Networking: networking fundamentals are an important pre-requisite to understand.

* Watch the complete Networking Playlist by Eli the Computer Guy (some information is outdated but the fundamentals still stand)
* Link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF360ED1082F6F2A5>

1. Get your feet wet: start practicing on some free vulnerable VMs to get some hands on understanding of hacking. Look up walkthroughs and follow along to get started.

* VulnHub: free downloadable VMs
  + Link: <https://www.vulnhub.com/>
  + Some recommended VMs Kioptrix1, Kioptrix 2, Kioptrix 3, Kioptrix 4, Fristileaks, Pwnlab\_init, mrRobot, Vulnix, VulnOSc2
* HackTheBox
  + Link: <https://www.hackthebox.eu/>
* The Offensive Security Proving Grounds (Play for free)
  + Link: <https://www.offensive-security.com/labs/>

1. eLearnSecurity PTS course and eJPT certification:

* Link: <https://www.elearnsecurity.com/course/penetration_testing_student/>
* covers the basics, introduces you to tools, and lays the foundation for proceeding to the OSCP
* Penetration Testing Student course for total beginners
* Price varies from $400 to $$600 depending on desired options

1. Offensive Security’s PWK and OSCP Certification:

* Link: <https://www.offensive-security.com/pwk-oscp/>
* Updated in 2020, the course includes comprehensive coursework, videos, and access to lab environment to practice in
* You can purchase additional lab time – the lab environment is invaluable for practicing in, gaining pentesting experience, and preparing for the OSCP
* You must pass a 24-hour exam to pass the OSCP
* Price varies from $1,000 to $1,350, plus extra for lab time extensions and OSCP exam retakes

Useful Resources:

* Hacking Terms: <https://www.hackterms.com/>
* OWASP:
  + The OWASP foundation is an industry-trusted community that creates guidelines, documentation, and tools for web app security. It’s important to understand and know the OWASP Top 10.
* Security Podcasts: many exist, listen to learn about current issues and pick up terms and jargon used in the industry:
  + Risky Business
  + Cyberwire daily