

Anyone Can Learn To Code



We'll turn you into a developer in 15 weeks
And you don't need to quit your job



Now Accepting applications for our Fall cohort, starting September 7th

Become a professional web developer

ACLTC is a part time, 15 week program that will train people to become professional web developers, even if they have no prior programming experience. The part time schedule makes the "code bootcamp" experience accessible to those who are unable to quit their current job in order to attend such a program. By the end of the course, students will have the skills needed to land and be effective in an entry level web development position. And ACLTC also helps the students land those jobs.

The course begins with three weeks of "homework" in which the students are given videos, books, and exercises to complete so that they enter the in-session component of the course with a specific baseline of knowledge and skills. This material assumes no previous coding background, so there is nothing to worry about. Additionally, there will be instructors available to help out regarding any exercises that prove a bit challenging. Expect to work between 15 to 20 hours per week for each week of the prework. Again, this preparatory work is not intended to be intimidating, but a friendly way to get up to speed quickly.

The schedule of the in-session course is as follows:

Sundays:	9 AM to 5 PM
Mondays:	6 PM to 9:30 PM
Tuesdays:	6 PM to 9:30 PM
Wednesdays:	6 PM to 9:30 PM
Thursdays:	6 PM to 9:30 PM

That's 22 hours per week for 12 weeks.

We are located at a place called 1871, which is a large and well known technology hub (which hosts well over 200 tech startup companies) inside the Merchandise Mart on the 12th floor. You can find more information about 1871 at their website: <http://www.1871.com>.

The exact address is:

1871
222 West Merchandise Mart Plaza
12th floor
Chicago, IL 60654

"I had never done any programming before meeting Jay, but he was able to teach me skills I needed to land my first gig as a rails developer."

During the course you will be learning the essentials of web development including the following technologies:

- Ruby
- Rails
- HTML
- CSS
- Bootstrap
- Git
- Github
- SQL
- JavaScript
- jQuery

and more.

The primary focus of the course is on both Ruby and Rails, as well as a deep understanding of databases. HTML, CSS, Git, and Github are introduced early on, and more advanced skills are taught throughout the course. Beginning in week 9 we start learning JavaScript and jQuery, and tie that in to all the other technologies, as all of these components are used together to create fully functioning web applications.

In addition to the actual technologies, we also focus on industry best practices, including Test Driven Development (TDD), Service Oriented Architecture (APIs), clean code, collaborative programming, and other skills that are highly sought out in the real world. We also discuss many of the important "soft skills" that are necessary both to be an effective developer as well as the secret of climbing the job ladder.

The curriculum is created and taught by Jay Wengrow, who is first an educator, and second a developer. Jay first received his M.Ed. from Loyola

University Chicago and taught for a short while before deciding that he also wanted to pursue tech in addition to his love for teaching. He went back to Loyola to receive his M.S. in Software Engineering, and then worked as a web developer for a number of years. Now, Jay is combining his expertise in education and technology to create a program designed to teach a tremendous amount of material in a very short time.

Jay believes that most people learn best using their various senses, and uses a multi-faceted educational approach in conducting the actual course. During class, we actually switch back and forth between "instruction" and "exercises." Instruction consists of Jay introducing a new concept and leading an interactive discussion about the new topic. His laptop is connected to the large screen TV in the classroom, and he demonstrates the actual concept in a way that is easy to understand, and everyone follows along. Questions are highly encouraged, and after everyone feels that they have a decent grasp on the discussion at hand, the class switches to Exercise mode.

During Exercise mode, the students are given a very specific exercise in which they have to build a program that is based upon the concept that was just taught. This hands-on experience really allows the concept to gel in the students' minds, as they actually are able to utilize this new concept while programming. The combination of instruction and hands-on experience fosters a well rounded approach that enables the students to truly comprehend the subject matter and master the skills that are taught.



Each Student will be working on a Capstone project throughout the course

The Capstone will be a larger, fully functioning web application of the student's choosing. That is, the students get to pick their own project based on their own interests and hobbies which they find to be very motivating. At the beginning of the program, the instructor meets with each student to determine a reasonable scope for the project, as well as makes sure that it also contains some impressive elements that would be worth showing off to a potential employer. There is time dedicated at the end of many of the sessions in which the students can apply all the lessons from that day to their Capstone project.



Capstones will be showcased to potential employers

In addition to the educational piece of the program, ACLTC also works to help the students actually land jobs in web development. Our approach to this is threefold:



I

We have networked and continue to network with many tech companies in Chicago who have express interest in meeting our students as they approach graduation. When graduation time comes, we begin to make introductions between students and companies, and in many instances, companies will arrange to interview the student for a position within that company.

In addition, we also have a "graduation" at the end of the course in which internal recruiters and hiring managers from these companies will actually be showing up and meeting our graduates face to face. During this time, the graduates have a chance to show off some of the excellent work they've completed during the program.

II

We place a strong emphasis on having the students build an impressive portfolio of work that will speak for itself. When hiring an artist, you most likely would not bother to ask them for degrees and certificates; you'd just ask to see the art they've created. The same is true regarding software engineering. If you can just show employers impressive work that demonstrates what you're capable of building, that's enough reason to hire you! Therefore, when we provide exercises to the students, we select ones that are not only educationally valuable, but impressive to potential employers as well. This same applies to the Capstone project; we make sure that the project the student chooses will contain impressive features.

III

We also help the students craft top-notch resumes and LinkedIn profiles. While most of the students who attend ACLTC come from non-technical backgrounds, that doesn't mean that the student must submit a virtually blank resume when applying for a job in web development. There are so many skills beyond coding abilities that are crucial to being an effective web developer. These skills include responsibility, communication, logical analysis, multitasking, among many others. We help identify which of these skills the student has demonstrated in previous careers and experiences, and make sure to highlight them in the resume, as hiring managers are looking for these other skills as well.

Tuition

Tuition for the program is \$8,000 (roughly \$30 per hour). A \$1,000 nonrefundable deposit is also required to reserve the student's spot in the program. This deposit is applied to the tuition. We are currently working to secure flexible payment plans. If you are in need of such a plan, we can discuss this on the interview.

Application

The application process consists of the following steps:

- 1) The applicant fills out a form provided by ACLTC
- 2) Upon receipt of the form, a member of ACLTC staff will follow up and schedule a Skype interview with the applicant.
- 3) The Skype interview gives a chance for ACLTC to get to know the applicant a little better and help determine if the applicant would be a good fit for the program. The applicant is encouraged to interview us as well and find out more about the program.
- 4) The applicant is given a simple programming homework assignment. The assignment will consist of watching a number of the screencasts on our website and building a small program based on the concepts taught in those videos. These videos don't assume any prior programming knowledge, and are designed for people brand new to programming.
- 5) After submitting the homework to ACLTC, within one week ACLTC will let the applicant know whether he or she has been accepted. Upon being accepted to the program, the applicant will receive an official student contract. When ACLTC receives the signed contract and the \$1,000 application deposit, the applicant's spot in the program is officially reserved.

FAQs

Q: Is there any homework given during the course?

A: While the first 3 weeks of the program consists of only homework, there is no official homework at all during the 12 week in-person session. Since ACLTC is designed for the working person, all work is done in class. That being said, learning to program is like learning to play a musical instrument, and any extra practice that someone can sneak in is highly encouraged.

FAQs continued

Q: What kind of people attend ACLTC?

A: ACLTC proudly serves a wide range of backgrounds, ethnicities, and genders. Most individuals that apply are actually looking to switch from a non-technical career to a technical one. And while most applicants have no professional experience or schooling in computer programming, many have attempted to learn it on their own using books and/or online tutorials with varying degrees of success. Most students keep their current job while attending our program.

Q: How many students are in each class?

A: Our current maximum class size is 14 students, although it is certainly possible that a class may contain fewer than 14 students.

Q: How many instructors are there?

A: Jay Wengrow is currently the only instructor. He leads both the instruction and the exercises, and is also available outside of class for anyone who needs extra help.



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