



# Software Engineering Career Track

## How to Successfully Work Through the Curriculum

We want your learning journey to be as smooth and efficient as possible. That's why we've put together some tips that we think will help you while working through the curriculum.

### Read the Unit & Subunit Intros

The unit and subunit introductions are packed with information that will help to orient you within the course. They also include basic descriptions of the topics that will be covered in the unit or subunit and helpful information that will help you understand how all of the topics in a unit relate to one another.

**They also contain notes about upcoming projects, reminders about actions that you need to take, and other important items so be sure to at least read the items that are in bold.**

### Practice Self-Learning

While we've curated our curriculum, it's important that you get comfortable with using resources available on the internet to explore topics you're interested in and find the answers to questions inspired by topics covered in the curriculum. Need more clarity about a topic? Want to understand how two topics relate? Look it up.

**Self-learning is an important skill that you'll use throughout your career** so it's great to start practicing now. Here are some tips and tricks to help practice self-learning on a regular basis.

- Google is definitely your friend when it comes to self-learning. For technical topics, don't forget to do a search on Stack Overflow.
- Summarize what you've learned at the end of each unit and subunit in your own words. The summary doesn't need to be very long — a 2-3 sentence paragraph capturing what you've learned should be enough. This is a great way to make sure new information sticks to your long-term memory.
- Paraphrase new terms, concepts, and procedures. Try explaining a new term or concept out loud to yourself or to someone else. This technique helps you self-assess the level of your understanding and identify areas that you should spend more time on.
- Take notes and review them regularly. Note-taking is a great way to help you process, synthesize, and consolidate important information for review and further study. It also keeps you alert throughout a lecture. We recommend keeping your notes in one place — keep a running Google doc or try one of these [note-taking apps](#).

### Work Through Units in a Linear Order

We've built the curriculum in the order that we think will allow you to best learn and practice software engineering skills. Working through the units in the order we've built them will ensure you learn everything you need to start a career in software engineering.

### Take Advantage of Your Slack Community

Reach out to your peers for feedback, advice, and study tips. They're working through the same course as you and will have insights you may find helpful.

### Prioritize Your Coursework

Staying on track while learning online can be challenging — you'll need to make some decisions, like working through a unit rather than watching a movie, in order to meet your goals.

- If you're having trouble with time management, reach out to your student advisor. They have tons of tips to help you stay on track.