

Python for Web Developers

Learning Journal

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?

I have completed the Full-Stack Web Development Immersion course at CareerFoundry. I also have a minor in Computer Science from the University of Nevada, Reno. Finally, I have a summer internship as a software engineer at a startup company.

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

I know that python is a very high-level language and that it is relatively easy to learn because the syntax is so simple. I want to know everything about Python.

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.

I think managing this course while working, applying for jobs, and improving my resume, portfolio, etc. will be the biggest challenge of this course. Having encouragement and motivation from my mentor will be a big help. Also, scheduling a reasonable amount of time dedicated to working on this course every week will help me stay focused.

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?

Frontend web development is building the software that the user actually sees and interacts with. This would be the website or user interface of a program. On the other hand, backend development is building the software that controls the data flow and business logic behind the scene. This would be pulling data from the database, doing whatever calculations that need to be done and then serving it to the frontend.

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?

Python and JavaScript are both high-leveling scripting languages, meaning they are read line by line as opposed to needing to be compiled before executed. Also, they both have dynamic typing, meaning the language infers the data type of variables by what you assigned to them, as opposed to static typing where you have explicitly state the data type of each variable. I would recommend using Python for this particular project because Python is very readable which makes it easy to get a project up and running. Also, Python has a great built-in package management system and many open-source and proprietary packages for the most common tasks.

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 want to learn how to build a full backend with Python and Django for a project. I want to learn this skill in such a way as to be able to apply it to real-world projects. I hope that putting this project in my portfolio will help me get a job in software engineering.