9-Month Fluency-First Full-Stack Web Development Curriculum

Target: Freelancer / Gig-Ready • Focus: Fluency over Speed • Method: Step-Gated Learning

Month 1 — The Web Mental Model (HTML & Browser Thinking)

- Understand how the browser loads, parses, and renders documents
- Semantic HTML and document structure
- DevTools: Elements, Styles, Network (read-only)
- Outcome: Write valid semantic HTML from scratch
- Portfolio: Pure HTML site

Month 2 — CSS Foundations (Layout & Visual Logic)

- Cascade, inheritance, and specificity
- Box model and spacing logic
- Flexbox and responsive reasoning
- Outcome: Diagnose why CSS does or does not work
- Portfolio: Responsive business landing page

Month 3 — JavaScript Foundations (Behavior & State)

- Variables as state, functions as behavior
- Events and DOM interaction
- Render mental model
- Outcome: Predict and explain JS behavior
- Portfolio: Interactive UI components

Month 4 — State, Time, and Async Thinking

- State vs derived state
- Sync vs async, promises, async/await
- Error handling and guard clauses
- Outcome: Reason about execution order
- Portfolio: Data-driven UI with loading/error states

Month 5 — Git, Projects, and Workflow

- Git as a thinking tool
- Atomic commits and diffs
- Project structure and documentation

- Outcome: Recover from mistakes and explain history
- Portfolio: Versioned project with case study

Month 6 — Modern Tooling (Vite & Modules)

- Why build tools exist
- ES modules and dev vs production
- Folder responsibility
- Outcome: Use tooling intentionally
- Portfolio: Modernized app using Vite

Month 7 — Backend Fundamentals

- Server mental model
- REST APIs and JSON
- Node and Express basics
- Outcome: Connect frontend to backend
- Portfolio: Simple API-powered app

Month 8 — Databases & Persistence

- Relational thinking and schemas
- CRUD operations and validation
- Basic SQL usage
- Outcome: Explain data flow end-to-end
- Portfolio: Full CRUD application

Month 9 — Gig Readiness & Real-World Practice

- Translating client needs to tasks
- QA mindset and code review
- Documentation for non-developers
- Outcome: Deliver client-ready work
- Portfolio: 3–5 polished projects

Learning Rule: No lesson is complete until it can be rebuilt from memory. Fluency always comes before speed.