Instructor Kickoff

Welcome to Flatiron School!

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Agenda

- Warm-up & Introductions
- Your Support Team
- Program Tools
- Program Structure & Schedule
- Setting Yourself Up For Success

Your Support Team

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Your Instructor 👋

What I do:

- Conduct sessions on core curriculum
- Administer and grade assessments
- Deliver feedback on coursework and progress

Mark Barbour

he/him

Your Support Teams

Technical Support:

- **Instructors:** Organize practice sessions, conduct assessments, and provide feedback on coursework and progress

Non-Technical Support:

- **Student Advisors:** One-on-one support during your program
- **Career Coaches:** One-on-one support after graduation
- **Community Team:** Discord spaces, newsletters, and events to help you connect with others and build your network

Instructors

- Able to support during specified hours
    - Instructors = Work day
- Exceptions include meetings, supporting events, lunch, and prep time.
- Instructional team will give you constructive feedback on code and professional skills.
    - They will not necessarily hand you the answer - but they'll guide you.

Program Tools

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Discord

Important channels to know:

- **#ds-flex**
- **#all-about-data**
- **#announcements**
- **#events**

Reminders:

Update your server profile:

- Photo (optional!)
- First name and last name
- Get roles!

Complete your onboarding (visit Server Guide)

Download the desktop app!

Our Code of Conduct applies to Discord. This is a part of our community but we can't be everywhere at once. Please let us know if you're ever uncomfortable with something that was said or the way something was said.

Canvas

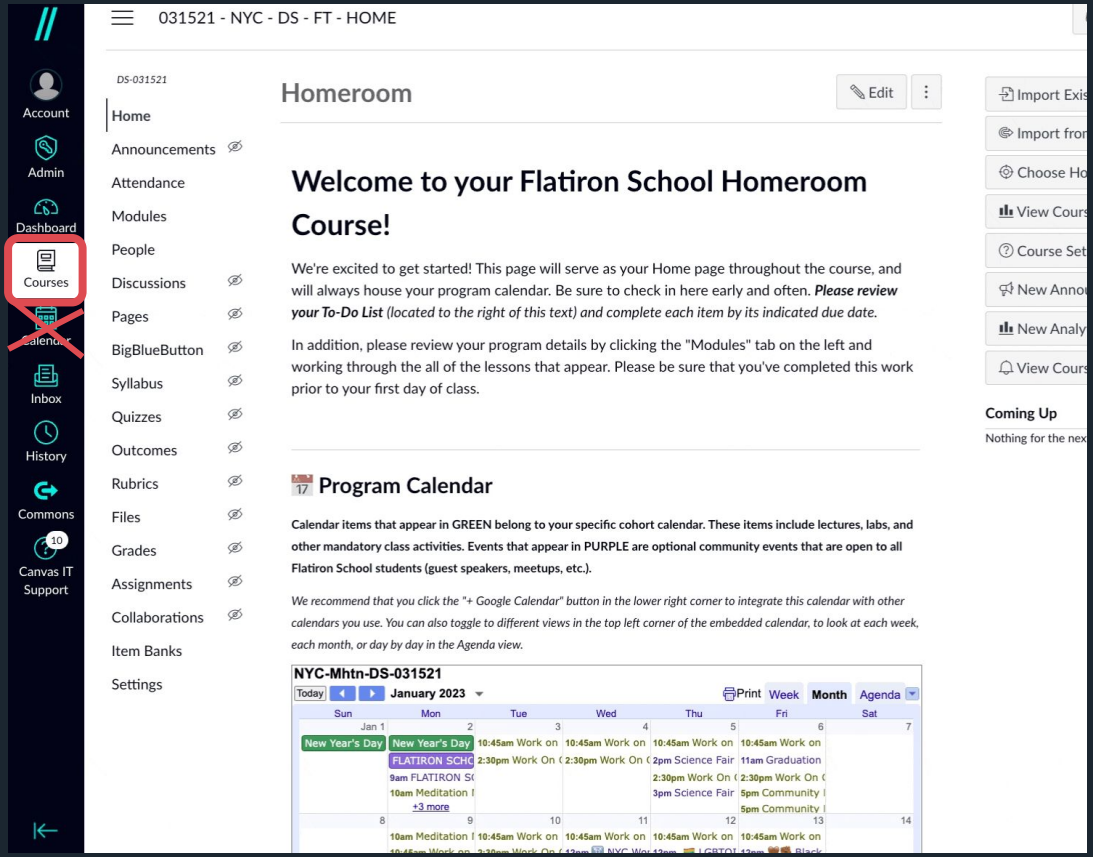
Flatiron School uses Canvas, a learning management system, to deliver our program and technical content.

Homeroom Course

General information, resources, and your calendar

Phase Courses

Lessons, labs, assessments, and blogs



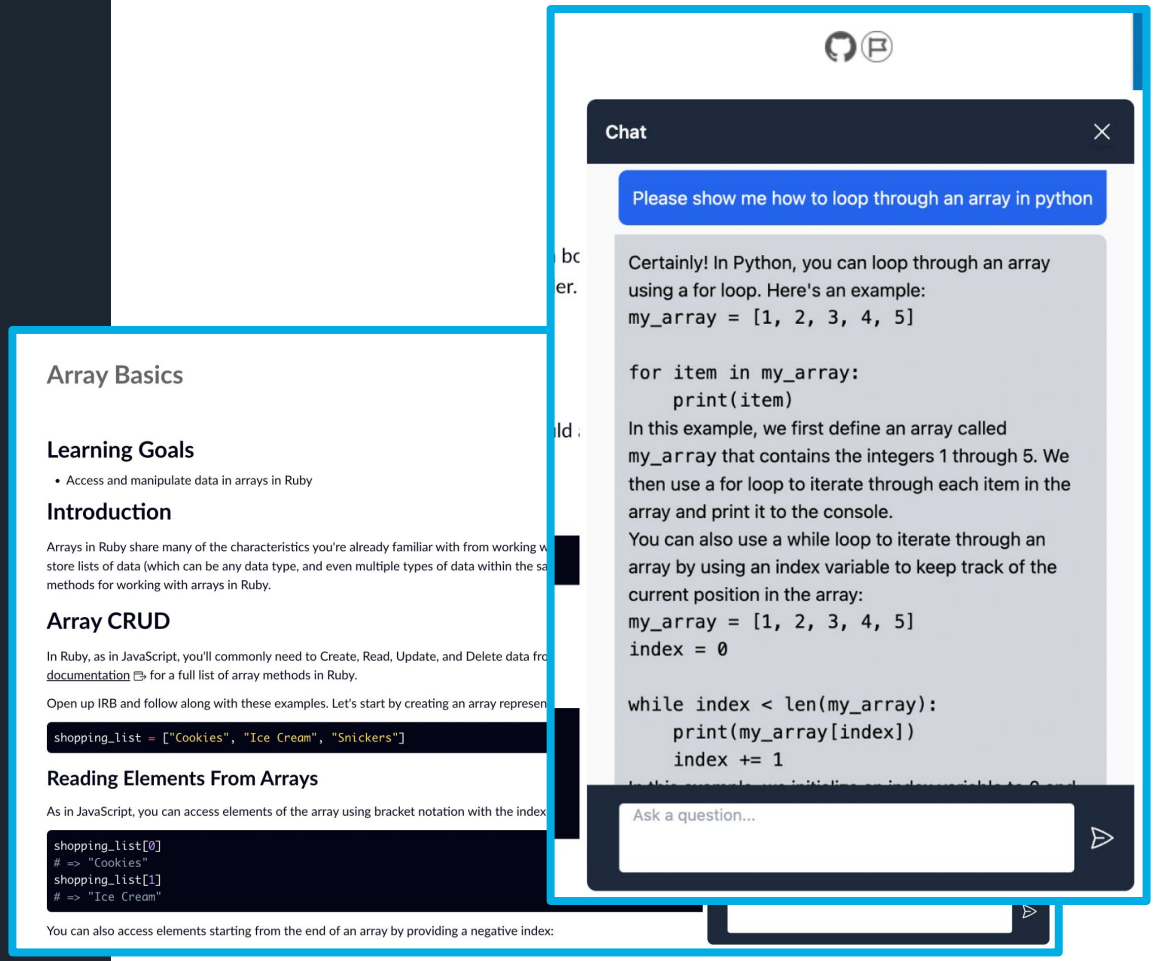
FYI: Here's your calendar!

Ada

Meet our chat bot, powered by OpenAI

- Tailored prompts
- Asks questions and uses analogies, diagrams, code samples
- Guides you toward solution

How? Chat box in Canvas



Program Structure & Schedule

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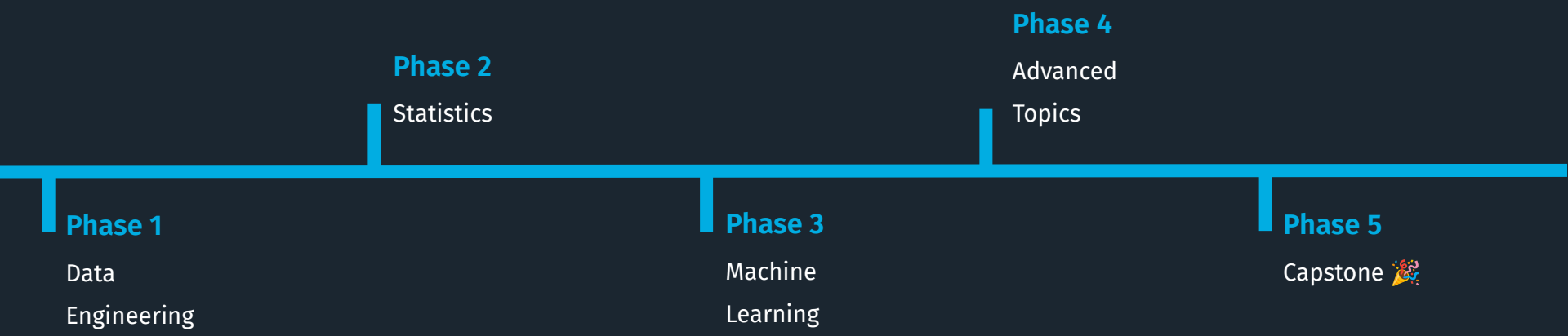
Program Timeline



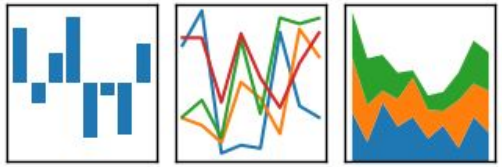
Curriculum Overview

Phase 1

- Coding in Python
- Data Manipulation and Analysis
- Data Gathering

pandas

$$y_{it} = \beta' x_{it} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$$



Curriculum Overview

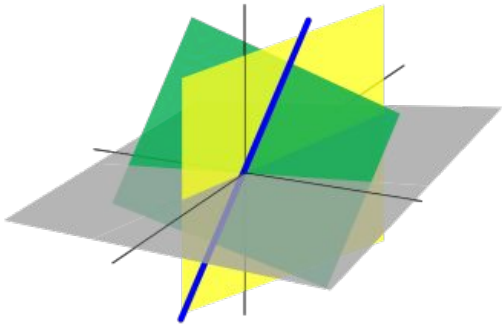
Phase 2

- Coding in SQL
- Statistical Modeling
- Simple Linear Regression

Curriculum Overview

Phase 3

- The Math behind Machine Learning
- Classification Algorithms
- Building Modeling Pipelines



Curriculum Overview

Phase 4

- Recommendation Systems
- Natural Language Processing
- Neural Networks

Curriculum Overview

Phase 5

- Capstone!

The Next 60 Weeks

Lessons and Labs

Learn the fundamentals. **You do NOT need to complete all labs and lessons** - but going through most is essential to passing the checkpoints, code challenges, and creating projects.

Blogs

Each phase you will write a technical blog to practice technical writing and communication skills. These also bolster your online presence for the job search.

Check-Ins

Required to meet with your instructor 2x per phase. There are open lab help sessions, review sessions, and office hours. Office hours permit you to discuss your progress and receive personalized support. Receive targeted feedback and address any concerns that may arise during your learning.

Checkpoints, Code Challenges, Projects, and Assessments

You'll be asked questions and be given challenges to assess your understanding of fundamentals. Explain your code from execution to exit point, along with the thought process that went into it. Use the best technical vocab that you can. **(Required and Graded!)**

Grading

Checkpoints and the Code Challenge

Checkpoints and the Code Challenge are worth **40%** of the overall grade in a phase.

Quizzes

Quizzes are worth **10%** of the overall grade in a phase.

Projects and Assessments

Project assessments are worth about **50%** of the overall grade in a phase.

Passing Each Phase

In order to pass each phase you must **maintain an overall grade of 70% or higher**. You will receive a Satisfactory Academic Progress Form (like a report card) at the midpoint (after phase 3) and the endpoint of your program with your cumulative grade and attendance percentage.

If you do not achieve the required grades you are afforded **one opportunity to retake** the project assessment or submit missing work at the end of the phase.

Letter Grade	Range
4.0	100% to 96%
3.7	< 96% to 92%
3.5	< 92% to 89%
3.3	< 89% to 86%
3.0	< 86% to 83%
2.7	< 83% to 80%
2.5	< 80% to 77%
2.3	< 77% to 74%
2.0	< 74% to 70%
1.7	< 70% to 65%
1.5	< 65% to 60%
1.3	< 60% to 55%
1.0	< 55% to 0%

Get your blog on!

- Approximately 5 minute read
- Published online
- Technical or tech related subjects
- 5 published blogs in order to graduate

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Project Assessment Protocol

- Submit your project to Canvas before booking a project review assessment.
- Show up, camera on, and ready to share your screen.
- If you need to cancel, do so via Calendly (our booking manager) at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled assessment. Failure to do so could result in a failed assessment attempt.

Pacing Guidance

Recommended Pace: 40 Weeks

- Eight weeks per phase
- Dedicate 20-25 hours per week
- Your Base pacing guidance will follow this pace. Follow this pacing to stay on pace with your cohort.

You will have 60 weeks from your start date to complete your course before it expires.

Assignments have due dates in Canvas based on a 40 week pacing, but there are **no late penalties** for submitting any assignments past the due date. **All phases need to be completed with a final grade of 70%+ by the end of the 60 weeks in order to graduate.**

Setting Yourself Up for Success!

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This isn’t like high school or college!

Teaching Methods

- 1:1 instructional sessions
- Office hours
- Lectures (live and recorded)
- Curriculum (lessons and labs)

Student Responsibilities

- Watching Lectures
- Canvas course completion
- Blogs
- Checkpoints and Code Challenges
- Projects

Professional Development

- Online branding (LinkedIn)
- Resume and portfolio building
- Networking

Personal Empowerment Protocol:

1. Read the error
2. Google the problem
3. Ask a peer
4. Ask an instructor

- This is an important framework in general for debugging / working through problems.
- Remote learning makes it even more vital!
- Reading errors, looking up problems, and collaborating with peers are essential skills.
- Get practice with them before asking us!

Imposter Syndrome

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Any questions?

For the rest of today...

Priorities for the next couple of weeks:

- Start building your network: Check out a community event or join an affinity group on Discord
- Make sure you can access all the tools you need
- Create a routine!

Get stuck? Post in our cohort Discord channel!

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