

Student CRUD API using Laravel Framework

Presented by: Venkat

Course: Backend Web Development

Instructor: Dr. Sheik Anik

What is a PHP Framework?

A PHP framework provides a foundational structure for building web applications with PHP. It standardizes development, promotes code reuse, and streamlines the process by adhering to best practices.





Pre-built modules and functions reduce the need for writing code from scratch, significantly speeding up development.



Enhanced Security

Built-in security features protect against common vulnerabilities like XSS, CSRF, and SQL injection, making applications more robust.



Structured Codebase

Enforces architectural patterns like MVC, creating organized, consistent, and manageable code, especially for large projects.



Easier Maintenance & Scaling

Standardized code simplifies debugging, updates, and adding new features, ensuring long-term maintainability and scalability.

Accelerate Development

Laravel's comprehensive set of pre-built modules and functions means developers don't have to write everything from scratch, allowing for rapid application creation.

"Less coding, faster results."

X Traditional PHP (Example)

```
$conn = mysqli_connect('localhost', 'root', '',
'student_system');
$result = mysqli_query($conn, "SELECT * FROM
students");
```

Laravel Way (Example)

\$students = Student::all();

Significant Time Savings

Automated tasks and built-in features dramatically cut down development hours.

Enhanced Code Quality

Utilizing well-tested framework components inherently reduces potential bugs and errors.

Focus on Core Logic

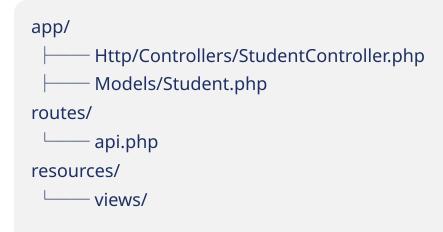
Developers can dedicate more time to implementing unique business requirements and features.

Structured Codebase

Every developer instantly knows where to look and what to change thanks to clear conventions.

Laravel enforces the **MVC architecture** (Model-View-Controller) pattern, keeping your codebase organized, consistent, and easy to maintain.

Example: Folder Organization



Organized

Clear separation of application logic, data handling, and user interface elements.

Consistent

A standard structure is maintained across all Laravel applications, aiding developer onboarding.

Manageable

Simplifies debugging, updates, and collaborative team development on larger projects.

Enhanced Security

Larayel provides robust, built-in security features that protect your applications from common web vulnerabilities



XSS (Cross-Site Scripting)

Prevents attackers from injecting malicious scripts into web pages viewed by other users.



CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)

Protects against unauthorized commands transmitted from a trusted user's browser.



SQL Injection

Safequards your database from malicious SQL queries that could expose sensitive data.

Without Laravel



// User input comes directly from the URL \$id = \$ GET['id']; \$query = "SELECT * FROM students WHERE id = \$id"; \$result = mysqli query(\$conn, \$query);

If a hacker visits ?id=1 OR 1=1 in the URL, all student records get exposed in an SQL Injection Attack!



With Laravel (Safe by Default)

// Laravel uses prepared statements automatically \$student = Student::find(\$id);

What Happens Behind the Scenes:

- Eloquent ORM automatically binds variables safely.
- No raw SQL concatenation, preventing injection.
- User input is sanitized before database interaction.

Easier Maintenance & Scaling

Laravel's design principles, including its standardized structure and modular architecture, significantly simplify the ongoing maintenance and future scaling of web applications.



Simple to Debug

Consistent patterns and clear error reporting allow developers to quickly identify and resolve issues, minimizing downtime.



Easy to Update

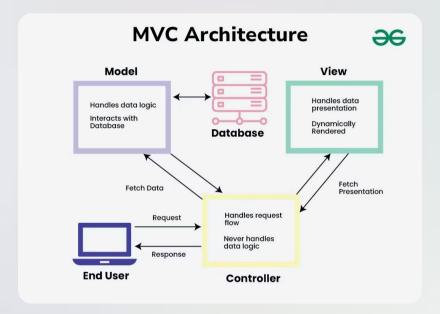
Adherence to best practices and semantic versioning makes upgrading Laravel versions and dependencies smooth and predictable.



Quick to Extend

Modular components and a rich ecosystem enable seamless integration of new features and functionalities as needs evolve.

This foundational stability ensures that your application remains robust, adaptable, and cost-effective as it grows and evolves over time.



Understanding Laravel's MVC Architecture

Model	View	Controller
Handles database	Returns output—	Manages application
operations and data	JSON data for the	logic and request
structure	API	handling

Laravel is a modern PHP framework based on the MVC architecture, providing elegant syntax and powerful tools for web development.

Composer — Laravel's Dependency Manager

Composer installs, updates, and manages all the external packages



Basic Commands

Install Laravel project
composer create-project laravel/laravel student-crud-laravel

Install dependencies
composer install

Update all packages
composer update

□ No manual setup required — Composer does the heavy lifting, ensuring your project is ready to run with minimal fuss.

Without Composer, Laravel wouldn't be plug-and-play — Composer makes Laravel possible

- Automatically installs Laravel's required packages
- Seeps dependencies up to date
- Manages libraries
- Ensures your project stays consistent across all systems

Framework Setup

01

Install Dependencies

Install XAMPP for PHP and MySQL, and Composer as Laravel's dependency manager 02

Create Laravel Project

composer create-project laravel/laravel student-crud-laravel 03

Configure Database

Connect to MySQL database student_system using the .env file

bash

composer create-project laravel/laravel student-crud-laravel

Laravel Project Structure (Pure Form)

Here's what a **fresh Laravel installation** looks like before you write any code:

```
student-app/
                           → Your application logic
    — Console/
     Exceptions/
       ─ Controllers/
                            → Your controllers (e.g. StudentController)
       ├─ Middleware/
       └─ Kernel.php
                            → Your models (e.g. Student.php)
   Providers/
  bootstrap/
                            → Framework bootstrap files
   L app.php
                            → Configuration files (app.php, database.php, etc.)
 - config/
— database/
                            → Migrations, factories, seeders
                            → Entry point (index.php) + assets
 - resources/
                            → Views (Blade templates), CSS, JS
                            → Route definitions (web.php, api.php)
 - routes/
 — storage/
                            → Logs, cache, compiled files
 — tests/
                            → Automated tests
— vendor/
                            → 
    The actual Laravel framework code

 — artisan
                            → Command-line tool for Laravel
  composer.json
                            → Lists dependencies (including laravel/framework)
                            → Environment variables
```

Pure Laravel Code Lives in

vendor/laravel/framework/

If you open that directory, you'll see Laravel in its raw form.

Example:

vendor/laravel/framework/src/Illuminate/

```
DB_CONNECTION=mysql
DB_HOST=127.0.0.1
DB_PORT=3306
DB_DATABASE=student_system
DB_USERNAME=root
DB_PASSWORD=
```

Database Configuration

.env File Settings

DB_DATABASE=student_system

DB USERNAME=root

DB_PASSWORD=

The .env file stores environment-specific configuration, connecting Laravel to the MySQL database.

Windows PowerShell Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows PS C:\Users\sabar> cd C:\projects\student-crud-laravel PS C:\projects\student-crud-laravel> dir

Directory: C:\projects\student-crud-laravel

Mode		WriteTime	Length	Name
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		app
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		bootstrap
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		config
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		database
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		lang
d	19-10-2025	03:34 PM		public
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		resources
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		routes
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		storage
d	19-10-2025	12:42 PM		tests
d	19-10-2025	12:44 PM		vendor
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	258	.editorconfig
-a	19-10-2025	03:06 PM	1127	.env
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	1069	.env.example
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	179	.gitattributes
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	227	.gitignore
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	1686	artisan
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	1817	composer.json
-a	19-10-2025	12:42 PM	301796	composer.lock
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	286	package.json
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	1175	phpunit.xml
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	4158	README.md
-a	31-01-2023	07:05 AM	263	vite.config.js

PS C:\projects\student-crud-laravel> php artisan serve

INFO Server running on [http://127.0.0.1:8000].

Press Ctrl+C to stop the server

Launch Laravel Server

1

Navigate to Project

cd C:\projects\student-crud-laravel

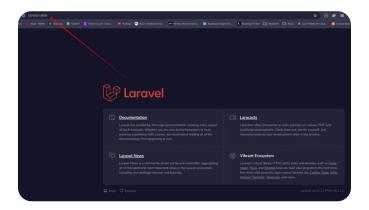
Start Server

php artisan serve

3

Access Application

Visit http://127.0.0.1:8000 to see Laravel welcome page



Building the CRUD Components



Defines **database structure** and specifies which fields can be mass-assigned (safe for insert/update).





Implements all CRUD actions

(Create, Read, Update, Delete).

```
> projects > student-crud-laravel > app > Http > Controllers > 🥷 StudentController.php > 😘 StudentController
    namespace App\Http\Controllers;
        public function index(): mixed
           return response()->json(Student::all());
       // Get one student by ID
        public function show($id): mixed
            return response()->json($student);
         public function store(Request $request): mixed
            $validated = $request->validate([
32
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40
            $student = Student::create($validated);
             return response()->json($student, 201);
         public function update(Request $request, $id): mixed
            $student = Student::find($id):
            if (!$student) {
               return response()->ison(['message' => 'Student not found'], 404);
```

API Routes Configuration



GET /api/students

List all students



GET /api/students/{id}

Show single student



POST /api/students

Create new student



PUT /api/students/{id}

Update student



DELETE /api/students/{id}

Delete student

Routes connect URLs to controller methods. Verify with: php artisan route:list

```
API Routes — routes/api.php
```

Route::apiResource('student s', StudentController::class);

Result:

Laravel instantly generates all 5

CRUD routes!

No need to write each manually.

Laravel Student CRUD API

A complete demonstration of building and testing a Laravel CRUD API using VS Code, Tinker, and browser-based verification.

Opening the Terminal

01

02

Launch Terminal

Press Ctrl+`in VS Code to open the integrated terminal.

Verify Path

Ensure terminal shows C:\projects\student-crud-laravel>.

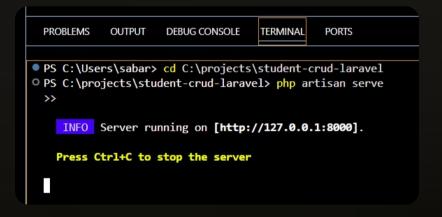
If not, run

cd C:\projects\student-crud-laravel.

03

Start Server

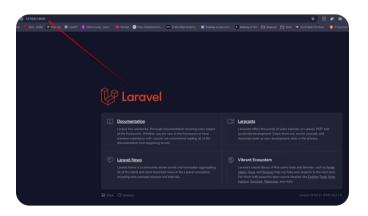
Execute php artisan serve to launch the development server.



Accessing the Application

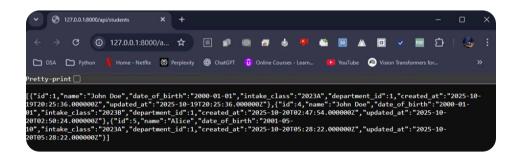
Server URL

Open the URL displayed in terminal, typically http://127.0.0.1:8000.



API Endpoint

Navigate to http://127.0.0.1:8000/api/students to view JSON response in browser.



Testing Routes

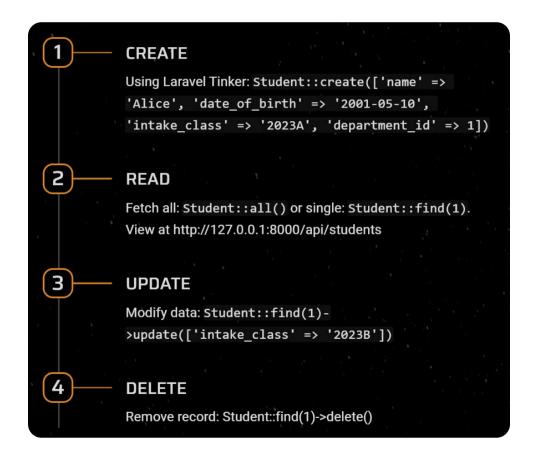
Confirm API endpoints using Laravel's built-in route list command.

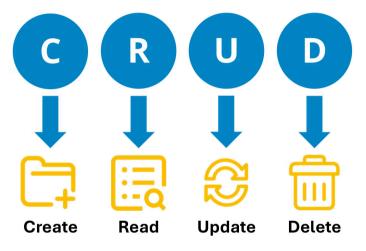
php artisan route:list

Displays all registered routes, HTTP methods, and their controller actions.

Ensures your CRUD endpoints are active and working.

CRUD Operations in Action





Demonstrate CRUD (Using Tinker)

CREATE: Add a new student record

```
Run: php artisan tinker

App\Models\Student::create([
  'name' => 'Alice',
  'date_of_birth' => '2001-05-10',
  'intake_class' => '2023A',
  'department_id' => 1
]);
```

READ: Retrieve student records

Read All Students

>>> App\Models\Student::all();

Read a Single Student

>>> App\Models\Student::find(1);

UPDATE: Modify a student record

```
Run:
```

App\Models\Student::find(1)->update(['intake_class' => '2023B']);

>>> App\Models\Student::find(1);

DELETE: Remove a student record

Run: App\Models\Student::find(1)->delete();

>>> App\Models\Student::find(1);

```
× Windows PowerShell
 Windows PowerShell
> App\Models\Student::find(1)->update(['intake_class' => '2023B']);
> App\Models\Student::find(1)->delete();
= true
> App\Models\Student::all();
= Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Collection {#5234
      App\Models\Student {#5895
        name: "John Doe",
        date_of_birth: "2000-01-01",
        created_at: "2025-10-20 02:47:54",
         ipdated_at: "2025-10-20 02:50:24".
       pp\Models\Student {#5188
            of_birth: "2001-05-10",
           ated_at: "2025-10-20 05:28:22",
         updated_at: "2025-10-20 05:28:22",
       pp\Models\Student {#5887
        date of birth: "2001-05-10",
        created_at: "2025-10-20 06:12:13",
        updated_at: "2025-10-20 06:12:13",
```

CREATE Operation

1

Launch Tinker

Run php artisan tinker to open Laravel's interactive shell.

2

Insert Record

Execute create command with student details: name, date_of_birth, intake_class, and department_id.

3

Verify in Browser

Visit /api/students to see the newly created record in JSON format.

This data is now inserted into my database. Let's check it in the browser.

Go to: http://127.0.0.1:8000/api/students

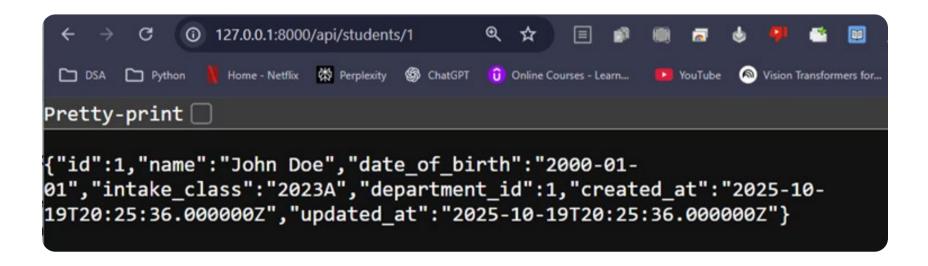
READ Operation

All Students

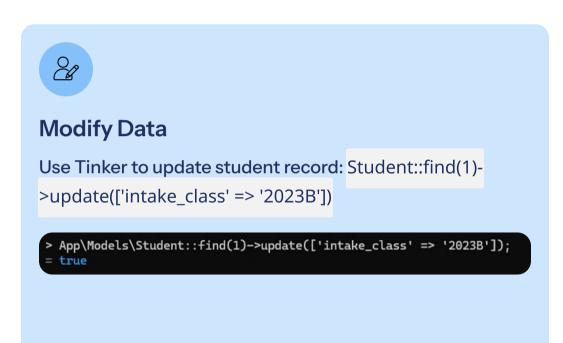
Access http://127.0.0.1:8000/api/students to retrieve all student records.

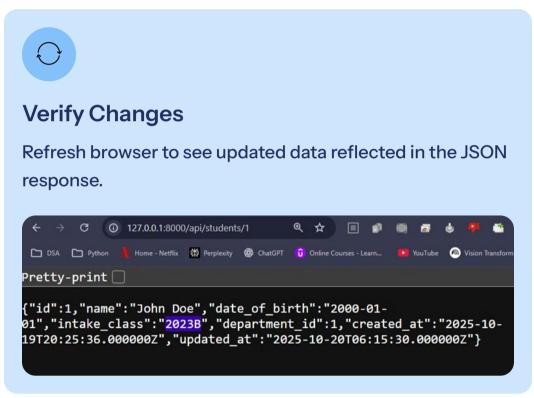
Single Student

Use http://127.0.0.1:8000/api/students/1 to fetch a specific student by ID.



UPDATE Operation

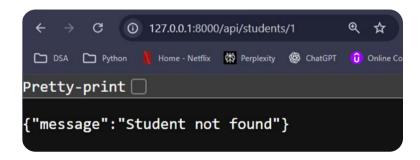




DELETE Operation

2 — Confirm Removal

Refresh browser endpoint—record no longer appears in JSON output.

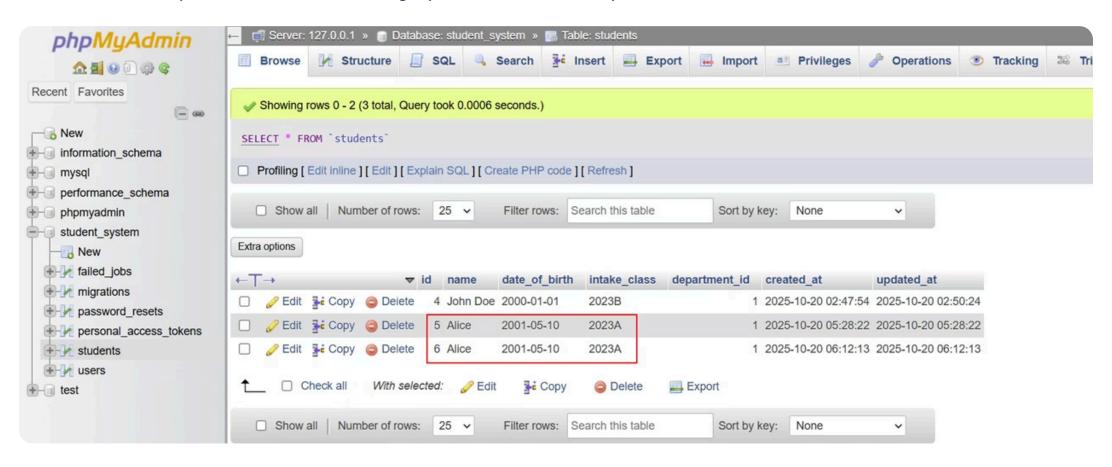


Database Verification

All CRUD operations reflect live in phpMyAdmin

http://localhost/phpmyadmin

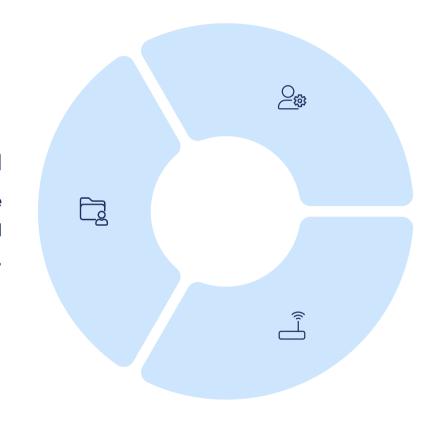
Direct database inspection confirms data integrity and successful API operations.



MVC Architecture in Action

Model

Student model interacts with the database, defining structure and relationships.



Controller

StudentController contains business logic and handles API request processing.

Routes

API routes define endpoints and map HTTP requests to controller methods.

MVC Components in Detail



Defines the data structure and interacts with the database via Eloquent ORM.



Contains the application logic, receives requests, calls the Model, and prepares data. 3



Routes

Define API endpoints and link incoming HTTP requests to specific controller actions.

Student Model

File: app/Models/Student.php

```
class Student extends Model {
  protected $fillable = [
    'name',
    'date of birth',
    'intake_class',
    'department_id'
```

StudentController Index Method

File: app/Http/Controllers/StudentController.php

```
public function index() {
  $students = Student::all();
  return response()-
>json($students);
```

Acts as the brain of the MVC pattern.

API Route Definition

File: routes/api.php

```
Route::get(
  '/students',
  [StudentController::class,
'index']
```

Keeps URLs clean and logical.

Handles all database communication.

Create and set up the Student model step-by-step

php artisan make:model Student -m

- This command creates:
- app/Models/Student.php → the model file
- database/migrations/xxxx_xx_xx_create_students_table.php → a migration file for the da
- Edit the model file (app/Models/Student.php)
 Add the following code inside it:

1. **Edit the migration file** (database/migrations/...create_students_table.php) Add columns for the fields:

```
public function up(): void
{
    Schema::create('students', function (Blueprint $table) {
        $table->id();
        $table->string('name');
        $table->date('date_of_birth');
        $table->string('intake_class');
        $table->foreignId('department_id')->constrained()->onDelete('cascade');
        $table->timestamps();
    });
}
```

1. Run the migration to create the table:

php artisan migrate

StudentController Implementation Guide (Step-by-Step Instructions)

11 Create the Controller

Open your terminal and run:

php artisan make:controller StudentController

This will create a new file at:

app/Http/Controllers/StudentController.php

2 Import Dependencies

At the top of the controller file, add:

use Illuminate\Http\Request;
use App\Models\Student;

These imports allow access to HTTP request handling and the Student model.

Define the Controller Class

Inside the file, define:

class StudentController extends Controller

This makes the controller inherit core Laravel controller functionality.

Create CRUD Methods

A. Get All Students

Purpose: Retrieve a list of all students from the database.

```
public function index()
{
   return response()->json(Student::all());
}
```

- Uses Student::all() to fetch all student records.
- Returns them as a JSON response.

B. Get One Student by ID

Purpose: Fetch details of a specific student using their ID.

```
public function show($id)
{
    $student = Student::find($id);
    if (!$student) {
        return response()->json(['message' => 'Student not
found'], 404);
    }
    return response()->json($student);
}
```

- Uses find() to locate a record by ID.
- Returns a 404 error if not found.

C. Add a New Student

Purpose: Insert a new student record into the database.

```
public function store(Request $request)
{
    $validated = $request->validate([
        'name' => 'required|string|max:255',
        'date_of_birth' => 'required|date',
        'intake_class' => 'required|string|max:255',
        'department_id' => 'required|integer',
]);

$student = Student::create($validated);
    return response()->json($student, 201);
}
```

- Uses Laravel validation to ensure correct data input.
- Creates a student record using Student::create().
- **Note:** Ensure the Student model includes:

```
protected $fillable = ['name', 'date_of_birth', 'intake_class', 'department_id'];
```

D. Update a Student

Purpose: Modify an existing student record.

```
public function update(Request $request, $id)
{
    $student = Student::find($id);
    if (!$student) {
        return response()->json(['message' => 'Student not found'], 404);
    }
    $student->update($request->all());
    return response()->json($student);
}
```

- · Checks if the student exists.
- Updates the record using the provided request data.

E. Delete a Student

Purpose: Remove a student record from the database.

```
public function destroy($id)
  $student = Student::find($id);
  if (!$student) {
    return response()->json(['message' => 'Student not found'], 404);
  $student->delete();
  return response()->json(['message' => 'Student deleted successfully']);
```

- Deletes the record if found.
- Returns a success message.

5 Define Routes

Open:

routes/api.php

Add:

use App\Http\Controllers\StudentController;

Route::apiResource('students', StudentController::class);

This automatically creates the following API routes:

Method	URI	Action
GET	/students	index
GET	/students/{id}	show
POST	/students	store
PUT/PATCH	/students/{id}	update
DELETE	/students/{id}	destroy

10 Test in Console / API Client

Example commands: curl

Get all students

curl http://localhost:8000/api/students

Get a single student

curl http://localhost:8000/api/students/1

Add a new student

curl -X POST http://localhost:8000/api/students

-H "Content-Type: application/json"

-d'{"name":"John Doe","date_of_birth":"2005-04-

12","intake_class":"Form 2","department_id":1}'

Example commands: Tinker

Open Tinker

php artisan tinker

Get all students

App\Models\Student::all();

Get a single student

App\Models\Student::find(1);

Add a new student

App\Models\Student::create(['name' => 'John Doe', 'date_of_birth' => '2005-04-12', 'intake_class' => 'Form 2', 'department_id' => 1,]);

Laravel vs Traditional PHP



Without Laravel:

```
if ($_SERVER['REQUEST_URI'] == '/hello') {
  echo "Hello PHP!";
}
```

With Laravel:

```
Route::get('/hello', function () {
   return 'Hello Laravel!';
});
```

t Laravel handles routing neatly, no messy conditionals.

2. Database (Eloquent ORM)

Without Laravel:

```
$conn = mysqli_connect('localhost', 'root', ", 'test');
$result = mysqli_query($conn, "SELECT * FROM users WHERE
id=1");
$user = mysqli_fetch_assoc($result);
echo $user['name'];
```

With Laravel:

```
$user = User::find(1);
echo $user->name;
```

3. Template (View)

Without Laravel:

With Laravel (Blade):

<h1>Hello, {{ \$name }}</h1>

→ Blade is cleaner and prevents XSS automatically.

4. Controller Creation

Without Laravel: Manually create a file and write all logic yourself.

With Laravel:

php artisan make:controller PostController

5. Migration (Database Setup)

Without Laravel: Manually run SQL commands in phpMyAdmin.

With Laravel:

php artisan migrate

 ← Laravel automatically builds or updates

 database tables based on your migration files

6. Laravel vs. Other PHP Frameworks

Choosing the right framework is crucial for your project's success. Here's a comparison of Laravel with other popular PHP frameworks:

PHP Frameworks	✓ Laravel	☼ Codelgniter		¥ii	m Symfony
Framework Type	Modern MVC	Simple MVC	Micro-framework	Full-featured MVC	Enterprise MVC
Built-in ORM	✓ Eloquent	×	×	V	✓ Doctrine
Templating Engine	✓ Blade	×	×	V	✓ Twig
Security Features	✓ Strong	X Limited	X Lacks	✓ Strong	✓ Highly secure
CLI Tooling	✓ Artisan	X Manual	×	✓ Gii Code Gen.	X Complex setup
Learning Curve	Moderate	Easy	Easy	Steeper	Complex
Best Use Case	Modern Full-stack Apps	Small to Medium Projects	REST APIs, Microservices	Enterprise, Data-driven	Large-scale Enterprise

Summary

Framework	Strength	Ideal Use
	Most balanced (easy, powerful, secure)	Full-stack web apps
* Codelgniter	Lightweight & simple	Small projects
	Fast & minimal	REST APIs
Yii	Secure & robust	Enterprise apps
î Symfony	Enterprise-grade & modular	Large corporate systems

Deployment (GitHub Prep)

Before uploading your Laravel project to GitHub, ensure you remove sensitive or unnecessary files:

- vendor/ → too large; can be reinstalled with composer install.
- .env → contains sensitive info (DB passwords, keys).
- storage/logs/ → unnecessary local logs; not needed in repo.



b Keep your repository clean and secure by excluding these files.

