## 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 completed the front end and full stack immersion courses for careerfoundry. I have taken some coding classes in high school, where I learned some C++.

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

I know almost nothing about Python, except that many people love using the language because it’s “simple” and “easy to read”.

1. 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 I will have technical difficulty, during the full-stack immersion course specifically, there were many points where the reading didn’t match what I had to do exactly and it made for very frustrating experiences. I was eventually able to get through it, but I hope there are not as many differences in this python course. I am hoping my mentor is encouraging and active so I am able to come to them with the problems.

### 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 on?

Frontend is what the user sees, it is more about the design of a website and users can see what a frontend developer is doing to the website. Backend makes me think of people who work on the servers and it feels like the structure of the site. Backend is also harder for a user to see because it’s a lot of communicating with things unseen. If i was hired for backend programming I would be working on things like SQL and MongoDB to work on servers and databases.

1. 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?

There are many reasons to choose both options, but my pitch for Python would start at how readable it is, which is good especially if not everybody knows JavaScript or Python. It would be easier for everybody to learn Python than JavaScript. Python also comes with many packages and it has a very simple packaging system. Like the Node Package Manager, Python has virtual environments that can be used on individual parts of an app so the app can run faster.

1. 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 become proficient enough in Python to use it for my own projects. I want to be able to put it on a resume and work in the field with Python because I do enjoy backend so having a well-known and simple language to start working with sounds very appealing. I hope to start helping people make their own websites soon and eventually move on to bigger things like making games with it, if possible!