Lambda School

After watching the interview with our CEO Austen Allred summarize what you think is different about Lambda School compared to either a traditional college education or a coding bootcamp. Be sure to include both positive and potentially negative aspects.

One of the major differences between Lambda School and traditional college is the income share agreement. Many talented adults are unable to attend college simply because of their socioeconomic disadvantages, and an income share agreement breaks that barrier down. Other college graduates finish their education with thousands in student debt and no promise of a paying job in their field, whereas Lambda students finish with no debt until they are able to find a well-paying job. One issue that some Lambda students might have is with the lack of a physical classroom. They might feel less heard, or achieve more when they can talk to a teacher in person. A third difference that can be helpful or more difficult depending on a student’s needs, is the time frame. Lambda is more intensive but only lasts nine months, traditional college is more spread out but takes 2-4 years.

Spirit of Independent Learning

After watching the TEDx video by Barbara Oakley answer these questions:

1. What are the two modes of thinking described in this video?

The two modes of thinking are focus mode and diffuse mode. Focus mode is used to directly focus on the subject at hand, diffuse mode is for when you’re stuck and need to put your mind in a more relaxed state while still thinking about the subject.

1. Do you think the Pomodoro technique would help you with procrastination?

I actually used the Pomodoro technique in high school. It proved very helpful and kept me from burning myself out when working on something that would otherwise take a long time.

1. Describe what is meant by “Illusions of Competence in Learning”.

“Illusions of Competence in Learning” is the false belief that a student has attained mastery of a subject when in reality they’ve only just started to gain an understanding. They may have reached a certain threshold and attained mastery of that, but they still have a lot to learn about the subject in its entirety.

1. What are some studying tips that you might implement after watching this video?

I will most likely return to the Pomodoro technique. I have problems with focusing for long periods of time, so being able to break it into smaller chunks is a big help.

Outcomes Based Assessment

1. How are outcome based assessments different from traditional testing?

Traditional testing usually takes a question and answer format. While outcome based assessments can use questions and answers, the focus is primarily on performance. The outcomes of traditional tests show whether a student has things memorized, the performance on an outcome based assessment shows whether a student can actually apply what they’ve learned.

1. Describe what a “1”, “2” and “3” mean on assessments

A “1” means the student hasn’t met the requirements of the assessment. A “2” means that the student has met the requirements and is the most common grade. “3” means that the student has exceeded the requirements of the assessment.

1. Describe the process of “flexing” at Lambda School

“Flexing” is used to help students who are struggling in a particular area. When a student is struggling, they are given an extra week to get themselves caught up. They repeat the coursework so that they can master the subject before moving on. If they are still struggling after the extra week, they meet with an advisor.