

# Analysis of Computer Programming & Development Degree Outcomes vs Hiring Requirements and Trends.

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**MAY 10, 2018**

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**The Forbidden Arts**

**Authored by: Jeremiah Stillings**



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# A report of why graduates are being told NO.

## This is the current degree's learning outcomes.

Nearly all technologies require software, and this degree provides students with the skills to develop that software for a broad range of devices. Students will learn how to write, test, and debug programs; how to use integrated development environments to create computer programs; and how to develop websites.

Upon completion of the Computer Programming and Development degree, a graduate should be able to:

- Use modern software development techniques and methodologies
- Use modern software testing techniques and methodologies
- Complete a software project from the definition phase through implementation

**“I am running into programming tests as a gateway to being able to apply for a programming job, but I do not have the education to pass the tests. I quickly realized that I was unemployable in the current Computer Programming Industry” Jeremiah Stillings March 2018.**

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# Course Learning Outcomes

Note: only courses related to this career field are listed.

## FIRST SEMESTER

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<b>CTI 110</b>	<b><u>CTI 110 – Web, Pgm, &amp; Db Foundation</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
Understand basic concepts related in Website development		
Understand basic concepts and technologies related to computer programming		
Understand basic concepts and technologies related to databases		
<b>CTS 115</b>	<b><u>CTS 115 – Info Sys Business Concepts</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
Understand the relationship between business processes and IT		
Understand common IT concepts and technologies		
Understand business challenges and how information systems contribute to the decision-making process based on these challenges.		
Demonstrate knowledge of the potential offered by new technology and systems to business processes.		
Use technologies that improve workplace productivity.		
<b>WEB 111</b>	<b><u>WEB 111 – Intro to Web Graphics</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
Modify and optimize images optimized for web use.		
Demonstrate graphic design basics for the web, including color, contrast, readability, effective text, imagery.		
Utilize Photoshop and GIMP to process graphics for web use.		

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## SECOND SEMESTER

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<b>CSC 134</b>	<b><u>CSC 134 – C++ Programming</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p>Compile and Develop console programs.</p> <p>Understand data types, flow control streamed input/output and conversions.</p> <p>Declare, define and invoke functions.</p> <p>Use functions to manipulate and aggregate data.</p> <p>Understand string processing, exceptions handling, dealing with namespaces.</p> <p>Understand the object-oriented approach.</p> <p>Deal with classes and objects, class hierarchy and inheritance.</p>		
<b>CTS 120</b>	<b><u>CTS 120 – Hardware/Software Support</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p>Describe functionality of PC hardware components.</p> <p>Differentiate between components, their purposes, and properties.</p> <p>Install and configure components.</p> <p>Use best practice maintenance procedures</p>		
<b>WEB 151</b>	<b><u>WEB 151 – Mobile Application Dev I</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p>Develop an app that makes use of the Android app activity lifecycle.</p> <p>Create an Android application that interacts with the user of the Android device.</p> <p>Create an app that uses Internet information sources and/or web services.</p>		

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## THIRD SEMESTER

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<b>CSC 151</b>	<b><u>CSC 151 – JAVA Programming</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<b>DBA 120</b>	<b><u>DBA 120 – Database Programming I</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p>Issue SQL commands that retrieve data based on criteria specified by the user.</p> <p>Use SQL commands to join tables and retrieve data from joined tables.</p> <p>Perform calculations based on data stored in the database.</p> <p>Use functions to manipulate and aggregate data.</p> <p>Use subqueries to retrieve data based on unknown conditions.</p> <p>Create, modify, and drop database tables.</p> <p>Manipulate data stored in database tables.</p> <p>Enforce business rules by using table constraints.</p> <p>Create users and assign the privileges users need to perform tasks.</p>		
<b>WEB 115</b>	<b><u>WEB 115 – Web Markup and Scripting</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
<p>Build a simple web site that organizes information effectively</p> <p>Use cascading style sheets to create style standards for a web site.</p> <p>Create a navigational framework that matches the content and genre of the site.</p> <p>Explain separation of concerns as it applies to the design and implementation of a web site</p> <p>Describe the issues involved in developing a web interface.</p> <p>Summarize the need and issues involved in web site implementation and integration.</p> <p>Explain why accessibility issues are an important consideration in web page development.</p> <p>Design and implement a web interface</p> <p>Explain and compare media file formats including lossy vs. lossless compression, color palettes, streaming formats, and CODECs</p>		
<b>WEB 182</b>	<b><u>WEB 182 – PHP Programming</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>

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PHP installation/configuration process.

PHP data types and operators.

PHP functions and control structures.

PHP string manipulation.

Using PHP to manipulate files and directories.

Using PHP to manipulate arrays.

Using PHP in conjunction with MySQL.

Testing and debugging PHP



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## FOURTH SEMESTER

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<b>CSC 251</b>	<b><u>CSC 251 – Advanced JAVA Programming</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
Write Java applications with a GUI.  Write Java applications that interact with a Database.  Write sound Java classes using advanced object-oriented techniques including inheritance and polymorphism.		
<b>CSC 289</b>	<b><u>CSC 289 – Programming Capstone Project</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
Apply fundamental business principles  Design rough drafts of forms/screens/files  Identify existing and potential problems  Summarize solutions/findings  Acquire feedback  Apply logic  Check accuracy  Check user compatibility  Consider hardware specifications  Provide written documentation  Explain documentation		
<b>CTS 240</b>	<b><u>CTS 240 – Project Management</u></b>	<b>Credits: 3</b>
Understand the genesis of project management and its importance  Demonstrate knowledge of project management methods and techniques  Understand and describe recent developments and research trends in the project management discipline.  Use various project management applications to help plan and manage a technology project.  Appreciate the importance of good project management		

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# Hiring Requirements

## History of Hiring Requirements

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Around 2007, companies learned that a lot of applicants could NOT program code at all and that they needed a tool to screen the massive amounts of applicants.

Meet FizzBuzz.

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Write a program that prints the numbers from 1 to 100. But for multiples of three print “Fizz” instead of the number and for the multiples of five print “Buzz”. For numbers which are multiples of both three and five print “FizzBuzz”.

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*Figure 1 <https://imranontech.com/2007/1/24/using-fizzbuzz-to-find-developers-who-grok-coding/>*

This new introduction of a test before you could interview was the beginning of many multi-million-dollar recruitment firms and the applicant’s worse fears.

## The Current FizzBuzz

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Currently tech companies use a paid service to vet applicants using online tests, if the programmer can pass the tests the service then allows the programmer to apply for a job with that tech company.

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## List of current paid services and companies they represent

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<https://triplebyte.com/>

### WE WORK WITH GREAT COMPANIES

We work with hundreds of companies of different sizes, stages, and industries and personally identify the ones that will be most exciting to you. All allow our pre-screened, pre-matched engineers to skip resume screens.



<https://www.interviewzen.com/>

This is a customizable service that appears to be one of the original ones from 2007. This site does not appear to have a list of companies they represent.

<https://www.codingame.com/work/solutions/coding-skill-assessment/>

### THEY TRUST OUR EXPERTISE

Adobe amadeus Booking.com ebay Nasdaq Nintendo WARNER BROS

<https://codefights.com/>

This was one of the first ones I ran into. They advertise on Facebook.

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## Some of our **Clients**

The world's best companies use CodeFights Recruiter to meet their technical hiring needs.



<https://mettl.com/en/coding-tests/>

This looks like the largest client list yet.

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## Serving 1500+ Clients In Multiple Industries

Here's a closer look at how companies grow with Mettl's online assessments, platform and talent measurement.



<https://www.hackerrank.com>

These guys have an odd name, but lots of clients!

Thousands of customers trust HackerRank for tech recruiting.

Featured

Industries

Select Industry ▾

## High Tech

vmware

Screens 75% Faster

cisco

Attracted 1700  
Security Engineers

<CODE\_NATION>

Saves 300 Hours in  
University Recruiting

redhat

Reduced Interviews  
By Over 60%

Adobe

Microsoft

Symantec

McAfee

intuit

fitbit

FUZEBOX

CITRIX

nitro

JUNIPER  
NETWORKS

EMC<sup>2</sup>

xerox

FireEye

riverbed  
Think fast.

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# Picking a side

The computer hardware industry has been a choice of PC or Mac since the beginning, but many people do not know that the software programming industry is in the same battle of having to pick a side.

Companies hire a Chief Technology Officer to make this call for their businesses.

*Figure 2 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief\\_technology\\_officer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_technology_officer)*

The first choice is the Operating System the company will use.

## Operating Systems

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Windows

Mac

Linux

Mobile

- iOS
- Android

The second choice is based on the operating system choice. The CTO makes the call on the software stack and the company then hires programmers based on the software stack.

## Microsoft's WINS Stack

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WINS

[Windows Server](#) (operating system)

[Internet Information Services](#) (web server)

[.NET](#) (software framework)

[SQL Server](#) (database)

## Microsoft's Programming Languages for WINS Stack

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[C#](#)

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## Open Source's LAMP Stack

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### LAMP

Linux (operating system)

Apache (web server)

MySQL or MariaDB (database management systems)

Perl, PHP, or Python (scripting languages)

## Open Source's Programming Languages for LAMP Stack

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Perl, PHP, or Python

### Java Platform

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This is the odd ball! No technology stack needed.

**Write once, run anywhere**

*Figure 3* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Write\\_once,\\_run\\_anywhere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Write_once,_run_anywhere)

## Java Platform Programming Languages

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Java

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As programmers, we will be required to program in many operating systems and would **benefit from an Operating Systems Class.**

As a college, you also will have to pick a technology stack to teach and pick a side, so to speak, as there is too much to teach if you dabble in all 3.

Java Platform IS easier for students to learn because the others undergo RAPID knowledge breaking changes. What worked last week may not work in the new patches. The Java platform currently releases on a 6-month update schedule. For this reason, I recommend sticking with the Java Platform.

In the next section, I will go over what skills are needed to pass these online gatekeepers for each technology stack, in the order they were presented above.



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# Skills Needed to pass the tests

## Microsoft's WIN Stack list of needed skills

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### General Software Development

Learn about general software development aspects, such as application lifecycle management and application specifications. These two concepts cover a general understanding of how software applications are created, deployed, and maintained by application developers.

### Core Programming

Becoming successful in programming doesn't require a deep understanding of computer hardware, but a general understanding of how a computer stores and processes information helps the programmer become more efficient at writing code. In this module, viewers will be presented with core programming concepts, such as covering how computers store information using data, structures, and how algorithms are used to solve real-world problems in a computer application. Other core programming concepts are covered, in addition to showing how to use decision structures and repetition in your programs, plus a discussion on programming errors.

### Object-Oriented Programming

Most programming tasks today revolve around object-oriented programming (OOP). This section covers how objects created in code can mimic real-world objects helping the programmer to better solve problems with their applications through modeling of the real-world objects represented in code.

### Web Applications

This section will present the viewer with a general understanding of what web-based applications are and how they are used in providing functionality and services to users and other programs.

### Desktop Applications

Although the Internet has created a move to more and more web-based applications and services, a fair bit of development is still accomplished for the desktop or laptop computer. This section presents an overview of the various types of applications a developer may be involved in creating for this platform.

### Understand Databases

Almost all applications developed today rely on data of some kind. Programmers are expected to know what a database is and how to extract information from one. This section provides a high-level overview of databases and shows how to extract, insert, update, and delete data in database systems.

**Figure 4** [https://mva.microsoft.com/en-US/training-courses/software-development-fundamentals-8248?l=D9b9nHKy\\_344984382](https://mva.microsoft.com/en-US/training-courses/software-development-fundamentals-8248?l=D9b9nHKy_344984382)

## Microsoft's certifications

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Exam 98-361 would be my recommendation for completion of year 1

**Figure 5** <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/exam-98-361.aspx>

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# Microsoft's list of deeper skills for a focus on Programming in HTML5 with JavaScript and CSS3

## **Module 1: Overview of HTML and CSS**

This module provides an overview of HTML and CSS and describes how to use Visual Studio 2012 to build a Web application.

### **Lessons**

- Overview of HTML
- Overview of CSS
- Creating a Web Application by Using Visual Studio 2012

### **Lab: Exploring the Contoso Conference Application**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe basic HTML elements and attributes.
- Explain the structure of CSS.
- Describe the tools available in Visual Studio 2012 for building Web applications.

## **Module 2: Creating and Styling HTML5 Pages**

This module describes the new features of HTML5 and explains how to create and style HTML5 pages.

### **Lessons**

- Creating an HTML5 Page
- Styling an HTML5 Page

### **Lab: Creating and Styling HTML5 Pages**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Create static pages using the new features available in HTML5.
- Use CSS3 to apply basic styling to the elements in an HTML5 page.

## **Module 3: Introduction to JavaScript**

This module provides an introduction to the JavaScript language, and shows how to use JavaScript to add interactivity to HTML5 pages.

### **Lessons**

- Overview of JavaScript Syntax
- Programming the HTML DOM with JavaScript
- Introduction to jQuery

### **Lab: Displaying Data and Handling Events by Using JavaScript**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Explain the syntax of JavaScript and describe how to use JavaScript with HTML5.
- Write JavaScript code that manipulates the HTML DOM and handles events.
- Describe how to use jQuery to simplify code that uses many common JavaScript APIs.

## **Module 4: Creating Forms to Collect Data and Validate User Input**

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This module describes the new input types available with HTML5 and explains how to create forms to collect and validate user input by using the new HTML5 attributes and JavaScript code.

### **Lessons**

- Overview of Forms and Input Types
- Validating User Input by Using HTML5 Attributes
- Validating User Input by Using JavaScript

### **Lab: Creating a Form and Validating User Input**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Create forms that use the new HTML5 input types.
- Validate user input and provide feedback by using the new HTML5 attributes.
- Write JavaScript code to validate user input and provide feedback in cases where it is not suitable to use HTML5 attributes

### **Module 5: Communicating with a Remote Data Source**

This module describes how to send and receive data to and from a remote data source by using an XMLHttpRequest object and by performing jQuery AJAX operations.

### **Lessons**

- Sending and Receiving Data by Using XMLHttpRequest
- Sending and Receiving Data by Using jQuery AJAX operations

### **Lab: Communicating with a Remote Data Source**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Serialize, deserialize, send, and receive data by using XMLHttpRequest objects.
- Simplify code that serializes, deserializes, sends, and receives data by using the jQuery ajax method

### **Module 6: Styling HTML5 by Using CSS3**

This module describes how to style HTML5 pages and elements by using the new features available in CSS3.

### **Lessons**

- Styling Text
- Styling Block Elements
- CSS3 Selectors
- Enhancing Graphical Effects by Using CSS3

### **Lab: Styling Text and Block Elements using CSS3**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Style text elements on an HTML5 page by using CSS3.
- Apply styling to block elements by using CSS3.
- Use CSS3 selectors to specify the elements to be styled in a Web application.
- Implement graphical effects and transformations by using the new CSS3 properties.

### **Module 7: Creating Objects and Methods by Using JavaScript**

This module explains how to write well-structured and easily-maintainable JavaScript code, and how to apply object-oriented principles to JavaScript code in a Web application.

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## Lessons

- Writing Well-Structured JavaScript
- Creating Custom Objects
- Extending Objects

### Lab: Refining Code for Maintainability and Extensibility

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the benefits of structuring JavaScript code carefully to aid maintainability and extensibility.
- Explain best practices for creating custom objects in JavaScript.
- Describe how to extend custom and native objects to add functionality.

## Module 8: Creating Interactive Pages using HTML5 APIs

This module describes how to use some common HTML5 APIs to add interactive features to a Web application. This module also explains how to debug and profile a Web application.

### Lessons

- Interacting with Files
- Incorporating Multimedia
- Reacting to Browser Location and Context
- Debugging and Profiling a Web Application

### Lab: Creating Interactive Pages by Using HTML5 APIs

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Use the Drag and Drop, and the File APIs to interact with files in a Web application.
- Incorporate audio and video into a Web application.
- Detect the location of the user running a Web application by using the Geolocation API.
- Explain how to debug and profile a Web application by using the Web Timing API and the Internet Explorer Developer Tools.

## Module 9: Adding Offline Support to Web Applications

This module describes how to add offline support to a Web application, to enable the application to continue functioning in a user's browser even if the browser is disconnected from the network.

### Lessons

- Reading and Writing Data Locally
- Adding Offline Support by Using the Application Cache

### Lab: Adding Offline Support to a Web Application

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Save and retrieve data locally on the user's computer by using the Local Storage API.
- Provide offline support for a Web application by using the Application Cache API.

## Module 10: Implementing an Adaptive User Interface

This module describes how to create HTML5 pages that can dynamically detect and adapt to different devices and form factors.

### Lessons

- 
- Supporting Multiple Form Factors
  - Creating an Adaptive User Interface

### **Lab: Implementing an Adaptive User Interface**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the need to detect device capabilities and react to different form factors in a Web application.
- Create a Web page that can dynamically adapt its layout to match different form factors.

### **Module 11: Creating Advanced Graphics**

This module describes how to create advanced graphics for an HTML5 Web application by using a Canvas element, and by using Scalable Vector Graphics.

#### **Lessons**

- Creating Interactive Graphics by Using Scalable Vector Graphics
- Programmatically Drawing Graphics by Using a Canvas

### **Lab: Creating Advanced Graphics**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Use Scalable Vector Graphics to add interactive graphics to an application.
- Draw complex graphics on an HTML5 Canvas element by using JavaScript code.

### **Module 12: Animating the User Interface**

This module describes how to enhance the user experience in an HTML5 Web application by adding animations.

#### **Lessons**

- Applying CSS Transitions
- Transforming Elements
- Applying CSS Key-frame Animations

### **Lab: Animating User Interface Elements**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Apply CSS transitions to elements on an HTML5 page and write JavaScript code to detect when a transition has occurred.
- Describe the different types of 2D and 3D transitions available with CSS3
- Implement complex animations by using CSS key-frames and JavaScript code.

### **Module 13: Implementing Real-Time Communications by Using Web Sockets**

This module explains how to use Web Sockets to transmit and receive data between an HTML5 Web application and a server.

#### **Lessons**

- Introduction to Web Sockets
- Sending and Receiving Data by Using Web Sockets

### **Lab: Implementing Real-Time Communications by Using Web Sockets**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Explain how Web Sockets work and describe how to send and receive data through a Web Socket.

- 
- Use the Web Socket API with JavaScript to connect to a Web Socket server, send and receive data, and handle the different events that can occur when a message is sent or received.

### **Module 14: Creating a Web Worker Process**

This module describes how to use Web Worker Processes to perform long-running operations asynchronously and improve the responsiveness of an HTML5 Web application.

#### **Lessons**

- Introduction to Web Workers
- Performing Asynchronous Processing by Using a Web Worker

#### **Lab: Creating a Web Worker Process**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the purpose of a Web Worker process, and how it can be used to perform asynchronous processing as well as provide isolation for sensitive operations.
- Use the Web Worker APIs from JavaScript code to create, run, and monitor a Web Worker process.

Figure 6 <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/course.aspx?cid=2480>

### **Microsoft's certifications**

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Exam 70-480 would be my recommendation for this focus to be completed in year 2.

Figure 7 <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/exam-70-480.aspx>

## **Microsoft's list of deeper skills for a focus on Programming in C#**

### **Module 1: Review of C# Syntax**

This module reviews the core syntax and features of the C# programming language. It also provides an introduction to the Visual Studio 2012 debugger.

#### **Lessons**

- Overview of Writing Applications using C#
- Datatypes, Operators, and Expressions
- C# Programming Language Constructs

#### **Lab: Developing the Class Enrolment Application**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the architecture of .NET Framework applications and use the features that Visual Studio 2012 and C# provide to support .NET Framework development.
- Use the basic data types, operators, and expressions provided by C#.
- Use standard C# programming constructs.

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## **Module 2: Creating Methods, Handling Exceptions, and Monitoring Applications**

This module explains how to create and call methods, catch and handle exceptions. This module also describes the monitoring requirements of large-scale applications.

### **Lessons**

- Creating and Invoking Methods
- Creating Overloaded Methods and Using Optional and Output Parameters
- Handling Exceptions
- Monitoring Applications

### **Lab: Extending the Class Enrolment Application Functionality**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Create and invoke methods, pass parameters to methods, and return values from methods.
- Create overloaded methods and use optional parameters and output parameters.
- Catch and handle exceptions and write information to the event log.
- Explain the requirement for implementing logging, tracing, and profiling when building large-scale applications.

## **Module 3: Developing the Code for a Graphical Application**

This module describes how to implement the basic structure and essential elements of a typical desktop application, including using structures and enumerations, collections, and events.

### **Lessons**

- Implementing Structs and Enums
- Organizing Data into Collections
- Handling Events

### **Lab: Writing the Code for the Grades Prototype Application**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Define and use structures and enumerations.
- Create and use simple collections for storing data in-memory.
- Create, subscribe to, and raise events.

## **Module 4: Creating Classes and Implementing Type-safe Collections**

This module explains how to create classes, define and implement interfaces, and create and use generic collections. This module also describes the differences between value types and reference types in C#.

### **Lessons**

- Creating Classes
- Defining and Implementing Interfaces
- Implementing Type-safe Collections

### **Lab: Adding Data Validation and Type-safety to the Grades Application**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Create and use custom classes.
- Define and implement custom interfaces.
- Use generics to implement type-safe collections.

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## **Module 5: Creating a Class Hierarchy by Using Inheritance**

This module explains how to use inheritance to create a class hierarchy and extend a .NET Framework class. This module also describes how to create generic classes and define extension methods.

### **Lessons**

- Creating Class Hierarchies
- Extending .NET Framework Classes
- Creating Generic Types

### **Lab: Refactoring Common Functionality into the User Class**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Define abstract classes and inherit from base classes to create a class hierarchy.
- Inherit from .NET Framework classes and use extension methods to add custom functionality to the inherited class.
- Create generic classes and methods.

## **Module 6: Reading and Writing Local Data**

This module explains how to read and write data by using file input/output (I/O) and streams, and how to serialize and deserialize data in different formats.

### **Lessons**

- Reading and Writing Files
- Serializing and Deserializing Data
- Performing I/O Using Streams

### **Lab: Generating the Grades Report**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Read and write data to and from the file system by using file I/O.
- Convert data into a format that can be written to or read from a file or other data source.
- Use streams to send and receive data to or from a file or other data source.

## **Module 7: Accessing a Database**

This module explains how to create and use an entity data model for accessing a database, and how to use LINQ to query and update data.

### **Lessons**

- Creating and Using Entity Data Models
- Querying Data by Using LINQ
- Updating Data by Using LINQ

### **Lab: Retrieving and Modifying Grade Data**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Create an entity data model, describe the key classes contained in the model, and customize the generated code.
- Use LINQ to query and work with data.
- Use LINQ to insert, update, and delete data.

## **Module 8: Accessing Remote Data**



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This module explains how to use the types in the System.Net namespace, and WCF Data Services, to query and modify remote data.

### **Lessons**

- Accessing Data Across the Web
- Accessing Data in the Cloud

### **Lab: Retrieving and Modifying Grade Data in the Cloud**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Use the classes in the System.Net namespace to send and receive data across the Web.
- Create and use a WCF Data Service to access data in the cloud.

## **Module 9: Designing the User Interface for a Graphical Application**

This module explains how to build and style a graphical user interface by using XAML. This module also describes how to display data in a user interface by using data binding.

### **Lessons**

- Using XAML to Design a User Interface
- Binding Controls to Data
- Styling a User Interface

### **Lab: Customizing Student Photographs and Styling the Application**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Define XAML views and controls to design a simple graphical user interface.
- Use XAML data binding techniques to bind XAML elements to a data source and display data.
- Add styling and dynamic transformations to a XAML user interface.

## **Module 10: Improving Application Performance and Responsiveness**

This module explains how to improve the throughput and response time of applications by using tasks and asynchronous operations.

### **Lessons**

- Implementing Multitasking by using Tasks and Lambda Expressions
- Performing Operations Asynchronously
- Synchronizing Concurrent Access to Data

### **Lab: Improving the Responsiveness and Performance of the Application**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Create tasks and lambda expressions to implement multitasking.
- Define and use asynchronous methods to improve application responsiveness.
- Coordinate concurrent access to data shared across multiple tasks by using synchronous primitives and concurrent collections.

## **Module 11: Integrating with Unmanaged Code**

This module explains how to integrate unmanaged libraries and dynamic components into a C# application. This module also describes how to control the lifetime of unmanaged resources.

### **Lessons**

- Creating and Using Dynamic Objects
- Managing the Lifetime of Objects and Controlling Unmanaged Resources

### **Lab: Upgrading the Grades Report**

---

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Integrate unmanaged code into a C# application by using the Dynamic Language Runtime.
- Control the lifetime of unmanaged resources and ensure that they are disposed properly.

### **Module 12: Creating Reusable Types and Assemblies**

This module explains how to examine the metadata of types by using reflection, create and use custom attributes, generate managed code at runtime, and manage different versions of assemblies.

#### **Lessons**

- Examining Object Metadata
- Creating and Using Custom Attributes
- Generating Managed Code
- Versioning, Signing and Deploying Assemblies

#### **Lab: Specifying the Data to Include in the Grades Report**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Examine the metadata of objects at runtime by using reflection.
- Create and use custom attribute class.
- Generate managed code at runtime by using CodeDOM.
- Manage different versions of an assembly and deploy an assembly to the Global Assembly Cache.

### **Module 13: Encrypting and Decrypting Data**

This module explains how to encrypt and decrypt data by using symmetric and asymmetric encryption.

#### **Lessons**

- Implementing Symmetric Encryption
- Implementing Asymmetric Encryption

#### **Lab: Encrypting and Decrypting Grades Reports**

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Perform symmetric encryption by using the classes in the System.Security namespace.
- Perform asymmetric encryption by using the classes in the System.Security namespace.

*Figure 8* <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/course.aspx?cid=2483>

### **Microsoft's certifications**

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Exam 70-483 would be my recommendation for this focus to be completed in year 2.

*Figure 9* <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/exam-70-483.aspx>

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## Open Source's LAMP Stack list of needed skills

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### **Introduction to Linux, Open Source Development, and GIT**

Introduction  
Open Source Software  
Why Use Open Source Software?  
How to Work in OSS Projects  
Continuous Integration  
OSS Licensing and Legal Issues  
Linux and the Operating System  
Graphical Environments and Interfaces  
Getting Help  
Text Editors  
Shells, bash, and the Command Line  
Filesystem Layout, Partitions, Paths and Links  
System Components  
System Administration  
Essential Command Line Tools  
Command and Tool Details  
Users and Groups  
Bash Scripting  
Files and Filesystems  
Linux Filesystems  
Compiling, Linking and Libraries  
Java Installation and Environment\*\*  
Building RPM and Debian Packages  
Introduction to GIT  
Git Installation  
Git and Revision Control Systems  
Using Git: an Example  
Git Concepts and Architecture  
Managing Files and the Index  
Commits  
Branches  
Diffs  
Merges  
Managing Local and Remote Repositories  
Using Patches  
Closing and Evaluation Survey

*Figure 10* <https://training.linuxfoundation.org/linux-courses/development-training/introduction-to-linux-open-source-development-and-git>

### **Apache**

Apache History  
Apache High Level Overview and Architecture  
User and password management

### **Installing Apache**

Apache Binaries  
Directories and Permissions

---

Apache Modules

Filters

Handlers

## **Managing Apache**

Starting Apache Manually and on System Start

Command Line Options

Server Status

Managing Apache Processes

## **Configuring Apache**

Overview of httpd.conf

Document Root

Basic Server Directives

Logging Directives

Performance Tuning Directives

## **Security**

Security Configuration Options

Passwords and Authentication

Allow and Deny Rules

Common Security Issues with Apache

## **Virtual Hosts**

Virtual Hosting Overview

Name-Based and IP-Based Virtual Hosting

## **Content Caching**

Caching Overview

Improving Caching Performance

Different Types of Caching

## **URL Mapping**

Configuring Aliases and Redirects

The DocumentRoot Directive

Different Types of Caching

*Figure 11 <http://www.learncomputer.com/training/apache/web-server-administration/>*

## **MySQL**

---

Explain MySQL storage engines  
Explain database transactions  
Obtain database metadata  
Describe MySQL GUI tools  
Monitor database performance  
Perform database backup and recovery  
Export and import database data  
Describe the features and benefits of MySQL  
Explain the basics of relational databases  
Design an effective database  
Build a database and tables by using SQL Modify or delete database entities  
Query data with the SELECT command  
Join data from multiple tables  
Perform nested subqueries  
Use built-in MySQL functions

*Figure 12* [https://education.oracle.com/pls/web\\_prod-plq-dad/db\\_pages.getpage?page\\_id=69&get\\_params=dc:D61918,clang:EN](https://education.oracle.com/pls/web_prod-plq-dad/db_pages.getpage?page_id=69&get_params=dc:D61918,clang:EN)

## PHP

<b>1</b> <b>INTRO TO PROGRAMMING</b> A. Language and the Logic of Programming B. Types of Programming Languages and Vocabulary C. What is PHP D. Why use PHP	<b>2</b> <b>PHP LANGUAGE BASICS</b> A. Syntax B. Quotes C. Comments D. Special Characters E. Data Types F. Precedence G. Symbols	<b>3</b> <b>PHP IDENTIFIERS</b> A. Variables B. Constants C. Arrays
<b>4</b> <b>PHP CONTROL FLOW BASICS</b> A. Operators B. Conditionals	<b>5</b> <b>PHP FUNCTIONAL BASICS</b> A. Functions B. Function Design Tools C. File Systems (Handling)	<b>6</b> <b>FILE SYSTEM BASICS</b> A. Constants B. Commonly Used File Functions C. File System Performance
<b>7</b> <b>PHP WEB CONCEPTS</b> A. Client/Server Communications B. How to embed PHP into HTML C. How to embed HTML into PHP D. Validating and Escaping E. Cookies F. Sessions G. S_GET and S_POST	<b>8</b> <b>PHP DATABASE BASICS</b> A. Introduction to Relationship Databases B. Keywords and Statements in SQL C. Using PHP Functions with the MySQL Data Engine	<b>9</b> <b>DEVELOPING PHP APPS</b> A. General Software Development B. Application Structure Guidelines C. Organizing a concept solution D. Application Skeleton E. Debugging Techniques F. Security
<b>10</b> <b>FINAL BINDINGS</b> A. OrderApp File Structure B. OrderApp Architecture C. OrderApp Request/Response Cycle D. OrderApp Step Through E. Resources F. Course Summary		

Figure 13 <http://www.zend.com/en/services/training/php-fundamentals-i>

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## Python 3

### Control and Evaluations (25%)

- basic concepts: interpreting, compilation, language elements
- literals: Boolean, integer, floating point, string
- operators: priorities and binding
- numeric operators: `**` `*` `/` `%` `//` `+` `-`
- bitwise operators: `~` `&` `^` `|` `<<` `>>`
- string operators: `*` `+`
- Boolean operators: **not** **and** **or**
- relational operators ( `==` `!=` `>` `>=` `<` `<=` ), building
- assignment and shortcut operators
- basic input and output: the **input()**, **print()**, **int()**, **float()**, and **str()** functions,
- conditional statements: **if**, **if-else**, and **if-elif-else**
- simple lists: constructing vectors, indexing and slicing, the **len()** function
- simple strings: constructing, assigning, indexing, slicing comparing, immutability
- building loops: **while**, **for**, **range()**, **in**, iterating through sequences
- controlling loop execution: **break**, **continue**

### Data Aggregates (25%)

- strings in detail: ASCII, UNICODE, UTF-8, immutability, copying and cloning, advanced slicing, comparing string vs. string, string vs. non-string, basic string methods (**upper()**, **lower()**, **isxxx()**, **capitalize()**, **split()**, **join()**, etc) and functions (**len()**, **chr()**, **ord()**), escape characters
- lists in detail: indexing, slicing, basic methods(**append()**, **insert()**, **index()** etc) and functions (**len()**, **sorted()**, etc), the **del** instruction, iterating lists with the **for** loop, initializing, the **in** and **not in** operators, list comprehension, copying and cloning
- lists in lists: matrices and cubes
- tuples: indexing, slicing, building, immutability,

- 
- directories: building, indexing, adding, and removing keys, iterating through keys and values, checking a key's existence

## Functions and Modules (25%)

- defining and invoking your own functions and generators
- the **return** and **yield** keywords, returning results, the **None** keyword, recursion
- parameters vs. arguments, passing positional and keyword arguments, default parameter values
- name scopes, the **global** keyword
- defining and using **lambda** functions
- the **map()**, **filter()**, **reduce()** functions
- the **if** operator
- the import directives
- writing and using modules, the **\_\_name\_\_** variable
- creating and using .pyc files
- constructing and distributing packages, the role of the **\_\_init\_\_.py** file
- hiding modules' entities

## Classes, Objects, and Exceptions (25%)

- defining your own classes
- class attributes: class variables and instance variables, defining, adding and removing attributes
- defining and using class methods, the meaning and usage of the *self* parameter
- inheritance and overriding, finding class/object components
- single inheritance vs. multiple inheritance
- name mangling
- the role of the **\_\_str\_\_** method
- introspection: **\_\_dict\_\_**, **\_\_name\_\_**, **\_\_module\_\_**, **\_\_bases\_\_** properties
- writing and using constructors
- the **hasattr()**, **type()**, **issubclass()**, **isinstance()**, **super()** functions
- using pre-defined exceptions, and defining your own exceptions



- 
- the **try-except-else-finally** block, the **raise** statement
  - the hierarchy of exceptions
  - adding your own exceptions to an existing hierarchy
  - assertions
  - the anatomy of exception object
  - input/output basics: opening files, stream objects, binary vs. text files, reading and writing files

Figure 14 <http://pythoninstitute.org/certification/>

## Pearl

Useful for maintaining old systems, but realistically if they are running this, they already have someone to maintain it, and should not be looking to hire new talent to do so.

## Java Platform list of needed skills

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Oracle purchased Java from Sun Microsystems and **Oracle SHOULD NOT be referenced as an authority of what is needed to know.**

This is a link to entirely free course for Java 7 that covers 80% of what is needed to know for passing these gateway tests. Note Java 10 just released in March of 2018, but the concepts in the following table are still what one needs to know and are taught in this free book.

## Online free book site

<http://math.hws.edu/javanotes/>

## Linked PDF!

<http://math.hws.edu/eck/cs124/downloads/javanotes7-linked.pdf>

The Mental Landscape Machine Language Asynchronous Events The Java Virtual Machine Building Blocks of Programs Object-oriented Programming The Modern User Interface The Internet and Beyond Names and Things The Basic Java Application Variables and Types Variables Types Literals Strings and String Literals Variables in Programs Objects and Subroutines Built-in Subroutines and Functions Classes and Objects Operations on Strings Introduction to Enums Text Input and Output Basic Output and Formatted Output A First Text Input Example Basic TextIO Input Functions Introduction to File I/O Other TextIO Features Using Scanner for Input	Details of Expressions Arithmetic Operators Increment and Decrement Relational Operators Boolean Operators Conditional Operator Assignment Operators and Type Conversion Precedence Rules Programming Environments Java Development Kit Command Line Environment Eclipse NetBeans IntelliJ IDEA The Problem of Packages Control Blocks, Loops, and Branches Blocks The Basic While Loop The Basic If Statement Definite Assignment Algorithm Development Pseudocode and Stepwise Refinement The N+ Problem Coding, Testing, Debugging while and dowhile The while Statement The dowhile Statement break and continue	The for Statement For Loops Example: Counting Divisors Nested for Loops The if Statement The Dangling else Problem Multiway Branching If Statement Examples The Empty Statement The switch Statement The Basic switch Statement Menus and switch Statements Enums in switch Statements Definite Assignment and switch Statements Exceptions and trycatch Exceptions trycatch Exceptions in TextIO Introduction to Arrays Creating and Using Arrays Arrays and For Loops Random Access Partially Full Arrays Two-dimensional Arrays GUI Programming Drawing Shapes Drawing in a Program Animation Subroutines Black Boxes
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Static Subroutines and Variables  
Subroutine Definitions  
Calling Subroutines  
Subroutines in Programs  
Member Variables  
Parameters  
Using Parameters  
Formal and Actual Parameters  
Overloading  
Subroutine Examples  
Array Parameters  
Command-line Arguments  
Throwing Exceptions  
Global and Local Variables  
Return Values  
The return statement  
Function Examples  
N+ Revisited  
APIs, Packages, and Javadoc  
Toolboxes  
Java's Standard Packages  
Using Classes from Packages  
Javadoc  
Static Import  
More on Program Design  
Preconditions and Postconditions  
A Design Example  
The Program

The Truth About Declarations  
Initialization in Declarations  
Named Constants  
Naming and Scope Rules  
Objects and Classes  
Objects and Instance Methods  
Objects, Classes, and Instances  
Fundamentals of Objects  
Getters and Setters  
Arrays and Objects  
Constructors and Object Initialization  
Initializing Instance Variables  
Constructors  
Garbage Collection  
Programming with Objects  
Some Built-in Classes  
The class "Object"  
Writing and Using a Class  
Object-oriented Analysis and Design  
Programming Example: Card, Hand, Deck  
Designing the classes  
The Card Class  
Example: A Simple Card Game  
Inheritance and Polymorphism

Extending Existing Classes  
Inheritance and Class Hierarchy  
Example: Vehicles  
Polymorphism  
Abstract Classes  
this and super  
The Special Variable this  
The Special Variable super  
super and this As Constructors  
Interfaces  
Defining and Implementing Interfaces  
Interfaces as Types  
Interfaces in Java  
Nested Classes  
Static Nested Classes  
Inner Classes  
Anonymous Inner Classes  
Java  
Lambda Expressions  
Introduction to GUI Programming  
The Basic GUI Application  
JFrame and JPanel  
Components and Layout  
Events and Listeners  
Some Java GUI History  
Graphics and Painting  
Coordinates  
Colors  
Fonts  
Shapes

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GraphicsD  
An Example  
Where is main()?  
Mouse Events  
Event Handling  
MouseEvent and  
MouseListener  
MouseEvent Data  
MouseMotionListeners  
and Dragging  
Anonymous Event  
Handlers  
Timers, KeyEvents, and  
State Machines  
Timers and Animation  
Keyboard Events  
Focus Events  
State Machines  
Basic Components  
JButton  
JLabel  
JCheckBox  
JTextField and JTextArea  
JSlider  
Basic Layout  
Basic Layout Managers  
Borders  
SliderAndButtonDemo  
A Simple Calculator  
Using a null Layout  
A Little Card Game  
Menus and Dialogs  
Menus and Menubars  
Dialogs

Fine Points of Frames  
Creating Jar Files  
Arrays and ArrayLists  
Array Details  
For-each Loops  
Variable Arity Methods  
Array Literals  
Array Processing  
Some Processing Examples  
Some Standard Array  
Methods  
RandomStrings Revisited  
Dynamic Arrays  
ArrayList  
ArrayList and  
Parameterized Types  
Wrapper Classes  
Programming With  
ArrayList  
Vectors  
Searching and Sorting  
Searching  
Association Lists  
Insertion Sort  
Selection Sort  
Unsorting  
Two-dimensional Arrays  
The Truth About D Arrays  
Correctness, Robustness,  
Efficiency  
Introduction to  
Correctness and  
Robustness  
Horror Stories

Java to the Rescue  
Problems Remain in Java  
Writing Correct Programs  
Provably Correct Programs  
Robust Handling of Input  
Exceptions and trycatch  
Exceptions and Exception  
Classes  
The try Statement  
Throwing Exceptions  
Mandatory Exception  
Handling  
Programming with  
Exceptions  
Assertions and  
Annotations  
Assertions  
Annotations  
Analysis of Algorithms  
Linked Data Structures and  
Recursion  
Recursion  
Recursive Binary Search  
Towers of Hanoi  
A Recursive Sorting  
Algorithm  
Blob Counting  
Linked Data Structures  
Recursive Linking  
Linked Lists  
Basic Linked List Processing  
Inserting into a Linked List  
Deleting from a Linked List  
Stacks, Queues, and ADTs

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Stacks  
Queues  
Postfix Expressions  
Binary Trees  
Tree Traversal  
Binary Sort Trees  
Expression Trees  
A Simple Recursive  
Descent Parser  
Backus-Naur Form  
Recursive Descent Parsing  
Building an Expression  
Tree  
Generic Programming and  
Collection Classes  
Generic Programming  
The Java Collection  
Framework  
Iterators and for-each  
Loops  
Equality and Comparison  
Generics and Wrapper  
Classes  
Lists and Sets  
ArrayList and LinkedList  
Sorting  
TreeSet and HashSet  
EnumSet  
Priority Queues  
Maps  
The Map Interface  
Views, SubSets, and  
SubMaps

Hash Tables and Hash  
Codes  
Programming with the JFC  
Symbol Tables  
Sets Inside a Map  
Using a Comparator  
Word Counting  
Writing Generic Classes  
and Methods  
Simple Generic Classes  
Simple Generic Methods  
Type Wildcards  
Bounded Types  
Streams, Files, and  
Networking  
Streams, Readers, and  
Writers  
Character and Byte  
Streams  
PrintWriter  
Data Streams  
Reading Text  
The Scanner Class  
Serialized Object I/O  
Files  
Reading and Writing Files  
Files and Directories  
File Dialog Boxes  
Programming With Files  
Copying a File  
Persistent Data  
Files in GUI Programs  
Storing Objects in Files  
Networking

URLs and URLConnections  
TCP/IP and Client/Server  
Sockets in Java  
A Trivial Client/Server  
A Simple Network Chat  
A Brief Introduction to  
XML  
Basic XML Syntax  
Working With the DOM  
Threads and  
Multiprocessing  
Introduction to Threads  
Creating and Running  
Threads  
Operations on Threads  
Mutual Exclusion with  
“synchronized”  
Volatile Variables  
  
Programming with Threads  
Threads Versus Timers  
Recursion in a Thread  
Threads for Background  
Computation  
Threads for  
Multiprocessing  
The SwingUtilities  
Approach  
Threads and Parallel  
Processing  
Problem Decomposition  
Thread Pools and Task  
Queues

---

Producer/Consumer and Blocking Queues Wait and Notify Threads and Networking The Blocking I/O Problem An Asynchronous Network Chat Program A Threaded Network Server Using a Thread Pool Distributed Computing Network Programming Example The Netgame Framework A Simple Chat Room A Networked TicTacToe Game A Networked Poker Game	Advanced GUI Programming Images and Resources Images and BufferedImages Working With Pixels Resources Cursors and Icons Image File I/O Fancier Graphics Measuring Text Transparency Antialiasing Strokes and Paints Transforms and Shapes Actions and Buttons Action and AbstractAction Icons on Buttons	Making Choices Toolbars Keyboard Accelerators HTML on Buttons Complex Components and MVC Model-View-Controller Lists and ListModels Tables and TableModels Documents and Editors Custom Components Finishing Touches The Mandelbrot Set Design of the Program Internationalization Events, Events, Events Custom Dialogs Preferences
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This free course is extensive but **lacks** some theory that these gateway tests use.

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# Algorithms and Big-O notations

Regardless of what Software platform the college decides to teach, we need to know algorithms and Big-O Notation for the chosen language.

Here are the Java ones

As students we should be able to write a program using any of these sort algorithms and know the Big-O of each type.

<https://github.com/TheAlgorithms/Java/tree/master/Sorts/src/sort>

As students we should be able to write a program using any of these search algorithms and know the Big-O of each type.

<https://github.com/TheAlgorithms/Java/tree/master/Searches/src/search>

## RegEx

Regardless of what Software platform the college decides to teach, we need to know how to perform RegEx functions for the chosen language.

Here is a current Java tutorial on RegEx


<https://www.javaworld.com/article/3188545/learn-java/java-101-regular-expressions-in-java-part-1.html>

# What do these gateway tests look like?


CodeFights.com

This is a picture of the categories that CodeFights tests you on


Data Structures

 Arrays 


(0/5)

 Linked Lists 


(0/6)

 Hash Tables 


(0/5)

 Trees: Basic 


(0/8)

 Heaps, Stacks, Queues 

(0/7)

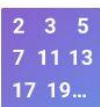
 Graphs 

(0/5)


 Trees: Advanced 

(0/4)


Math

 Number Theory 

(0/5)


 Counting 

(0/6)

 Geometry 

(0/5)

Coming Soon

 Big-O Notation



## Sorting & Searching



Depth-First Search & Breadth-First Search

(0/5)



Backtracking

(0/5)



Sorting

(0/7)

## Dynamic Programming



Dynamic Programming: Basic

(0/5)



Dynamic Programming: Advanced

(0/5)

## Special Topics



Common Techniques: Basic

(0/7)



Strings

(0/6)



Bits

(0/5)



Common Techniques: Advanced

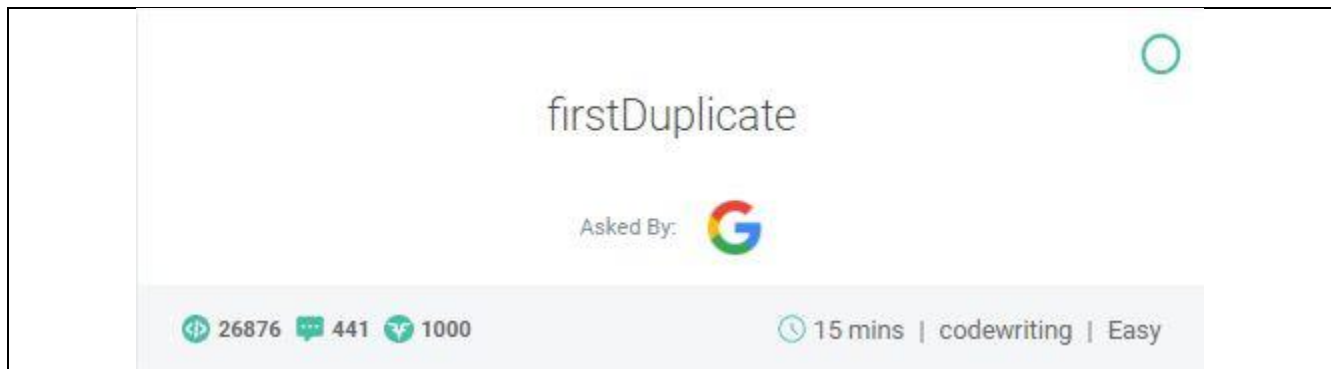
(0/5)



RegEx

(0/4)

The first one available to me is Arrays, the first task has a 15-minute timer and is marked EASY!



On the left is your instructions and on the right is your IDE, time is ticking as soon as it loads.

A screenshot of the Codeforces IDE interface for the 'firstDuplicate' task. The interface is split into two main sections: a left sidebar for instructions and a right section for the IDE and tests.

**Left Sidebar (Instructions):**

- Buttons: BACK, DESCRIPTION, SOLUTIONS (26876), CODEWRITING, SCORE: 0/300.
- Question: "Have you seen this question in a real interview? Rate this task to help us." with YES and NO buttons.
- Note: "Write a solution with  $O(n)$  time complexity and  $O(1)$  additional space complexity, since this is what you would be asked to do during a real interview."
- Problem Statement: "Given an array `a` that contains only numbers in the range from `1` to `a.length`, find the first duplicate number for which the second occurrence has the minimal index. In other words, if there are more than 1 duplicated numbers, return the number for which the second occurrence has a smaller index than the second occurrence of the other number does. If there are no such elements, return `-1`."
- Example:
  - For `a = [2, 3, 3, 1, 5, 2]`, the output should be `firstDuplicate(a) = 3`.  
There are 2 duplicates: numbers 2 and 3. The second occurrence of 3 has a smaller index than the second occurrence of 2 does, so the answer is 3.
  - For `a = [2, 4, 3, 5, 1]`, the output should be `firstDuplicate(a) = -1`.
- Input/Output:
  - [execution time limit] 3 seconds (java)
  - [input] array.integer a
  - Guaranteed constraints:
    - $1 \leq a.length \leq 10^5$ ,
    - $1 \leq a[i] \leq a.length$ .
  - [output] integer

**Right Section (IDE and Tests):**

- Header: "firstDuplicate" with a timer at 2,950 and a user profile.
- Language: Java.
- Code Editor: Shows the start of the `firstDuplicate` function.

```
1 int firstDuplicate(int[] a) {
2
3
4 }
```
- Tests: A list of 6 test cases (Test 1 to Test 6) with expand/collapse icons.
- Buttons: RUN TESTS, SUBMIT.

## This is the instructions for task 1.

*Note: Write a solution with  $O(n)$  time complexity and  $O(1)$  additional space complexity, since this is what you would be asked to do during a real interview.*

Given an array `a` that contains only numbers in the range from 1 to `a.length`, find the first duplicate number for which the second occurrence has the minimal index. In other words, if there are more than 1 duplicated numbers, return the number for which the second occurrence has a smaller index than the second occurrence of the other number does. If there are no such elements, return -1.

### Example

- For `a = [2, 3, 3, 1, 5, 2]`, the output should be `firstDuplicate(a) = 3`.  
There are 2 duplicates: numbers 2 and 3. The second occurrence of 3 has a smaller index than the second occurrence of 2 does, so the answer is 3.
- For `a = [2, 4, 3, 5, 1]`, the output should be `firstDuplicate(a) = -1`.

### Input/Output

- [execution time limit] 3 seconds (java)**
- [input] array.integer a**

*Guaranteed constraints:*

$1 \leq a.length \leq 10^5$ ,  
 $1 \leq a[i] \leq a.length$ .

- [output] integer**

The element in `a` that occurs in the array more than once and has the minimal index for its second occurrence. If there are no such elements, return -1.

### [Java] Syntax Tips

```
// Prints help message to the console
// Returns a string
//
// Globals declared here will cause a compilation error,
// declare variables inside the function instead!
String helloWorld(String name) {
    System.out.println("This prints to the console when you Run Tests");
    return "Hello, " + name;
}
```

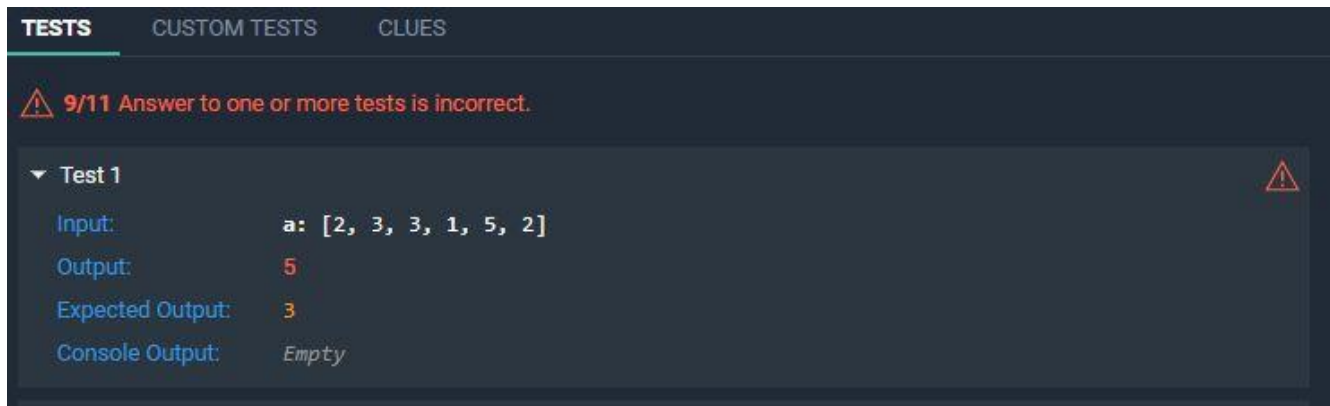
Our current education only covered 2 (green) of the 4 needed concepts.

Big-O Notation	Data Structure – Hash Map
For loop	If Statements

This was my solution that took me over **5 hours** of trial and error to come up with!

```
int firstDuplicate(int[] a) {
int answer = -1;
int hit = 0;
int holder = 0;
int firstPlace = a.length;
if( a.length > 1)
{
    for(int i=0; i< a.length;i++)
    {
        for(int j = 1; j<a.length; j++)
        {
            if (a[i] == a[j])
            {
                if (a.length == 2)
                {
                    hit++;
                    if (hit == 2)
                    {
                        firstPlace = j;
                    }
                }
            }
            else
            {
                hit++;
                if( hit >= a.length + 1 )
                {
                    if ( j <= firstPlace)
                    {
                        holder = j;
                        if(firstPlace > holder)
                        {
                            firstPlace = holder;
                        }
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
if( firstPlace == a.length)
{
    answer = -1;
}
else
{
    answer = a[firstPlace];
}
return answer;
}
```

My solution fails, and I have never been able to solve this in order to try more.



The screenshot shows a testing interface with three tabs: "TESTS", "CUSTOM TESTS", and "CLUES". The "TESTS" tab is active. A red warning icon and text indicate "9/11 Answer to one or more tests is incorrect." Below this, "Test 1" is expanded, showing the following details:

Input:	a: [2, 3, 3, 1, 5, 2]
Output:	5
Expected Output:	3
Console Output:	Empty

A red warning icon is also visible in the top right corner of the test details panel.

I found a solution here, but the idea of these sites is to see if YOU can program it, NOT GOOGLE, so it would be unethical for me to Google it and submit as my work.

<https://mobile-security.ro/java-first-duplicate-index/>

```
int firstDuplicate(int[] a) {  
    Set<Integer> set = new HashSet<Integer>();  
    HashMap<Integer, Integer> hm = new HashMap<Integer, Integer>();  
    Map.Entry<Integer, Integer> min = null;  
  
    for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++){  
        if(set.add(a[i]) == false && !hm.containsKey(a[i])) {  
            hm.put(a[i], i);  
        }  
    }  
  
    for (Map.Entry<Integer, Integer> entry : hm.entrySet()){  
        if (min == null || entry.getValue() < min.getValue()){  
            min = entry;  
        }  
    }  
  
    return min == null ? new Integer(-1) : min.getKey();  
}
```

TripleByte.com

Clicking sign up on another site, Triplebyte.com, I was presented with this.



Hey there!

I'm Mike, an engineer at Triplebyte.

Triplebyte's quiz is multiple-choice. It covers topics like basic programming, web development, basic algorithms and system design. Nobody's great at everything! The quiz finds your strengths.

Try a practice question:

What will the following code print?

```
var x = 1;
for (var i = 0; i < 3; i++) {
  x += 5 * i;
}
console.log(x);
```

☐ 1

☐ 10

☐ 16

☐ 31

You'll be able to choose front-end, mobile, or other special topics before we begin.

THAT WAS EASY :)

---

I did not even know what language this was. The function `console.log()` I was completely unfamiliar with. I had two thoughts, one, `.log()` accepted a parameter and returned a computation of a logarithm.

In mathematics, the logarithm is the inverse operation to exponentiation, just as division is the inverse of multiplication.

My other thought was that it was a print statement.

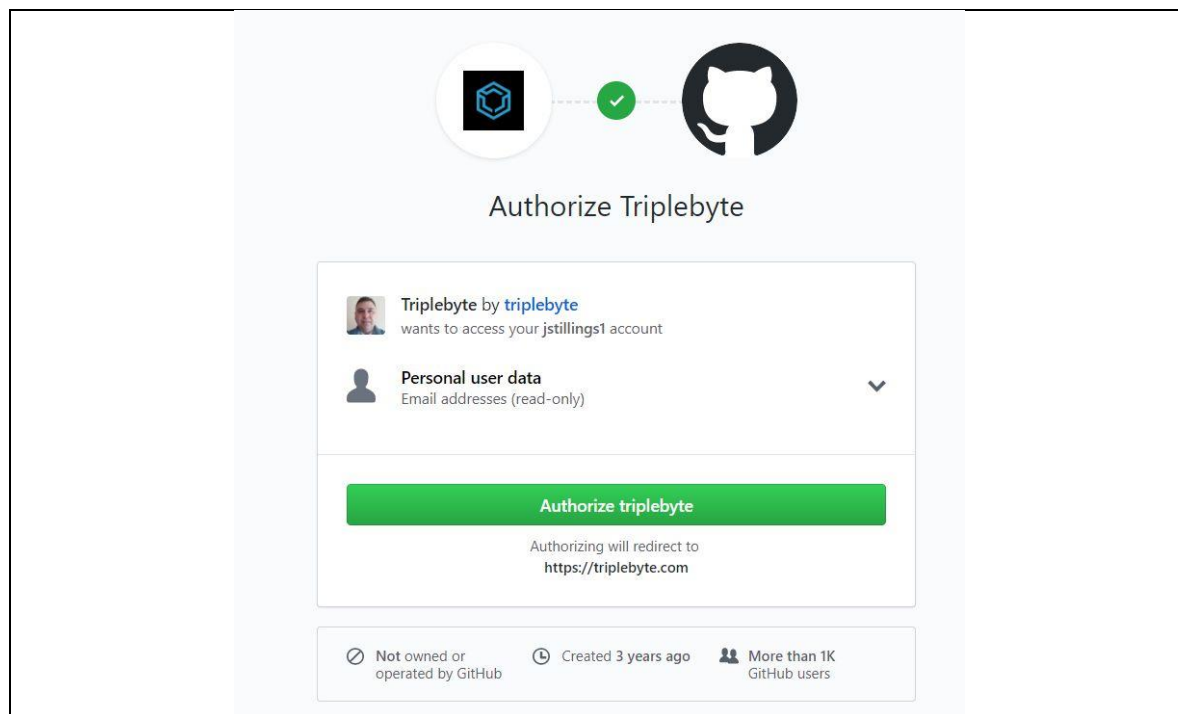
It turns out `console.log()` is debugging command in JavaScript.

[https://www.w3schools.com/js/js\\_output.asp](https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_output.asp)

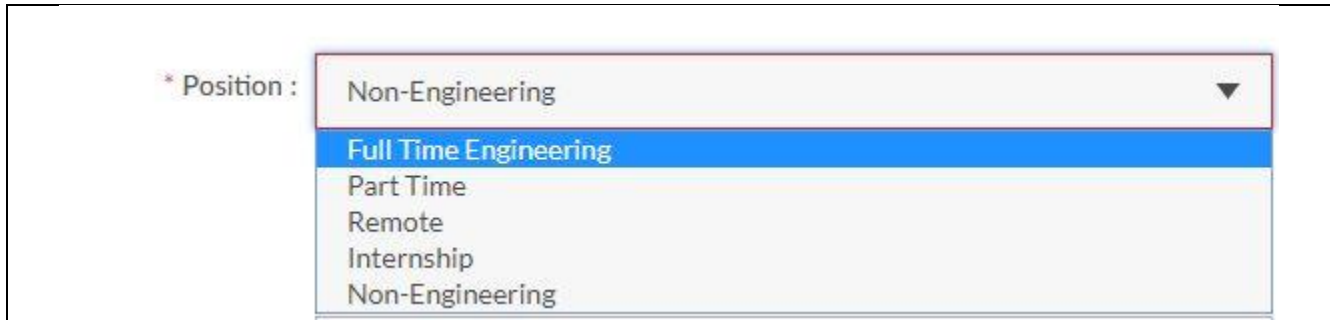
It took me about 6 minutes to come up with 16, which was the right answer and I progressed to the next screen.

Log in for a lot of these uses your Git Hub account, luckily, I have had one for years.

**Git hub is not taught in the current curriculum but should be considered as adding.**



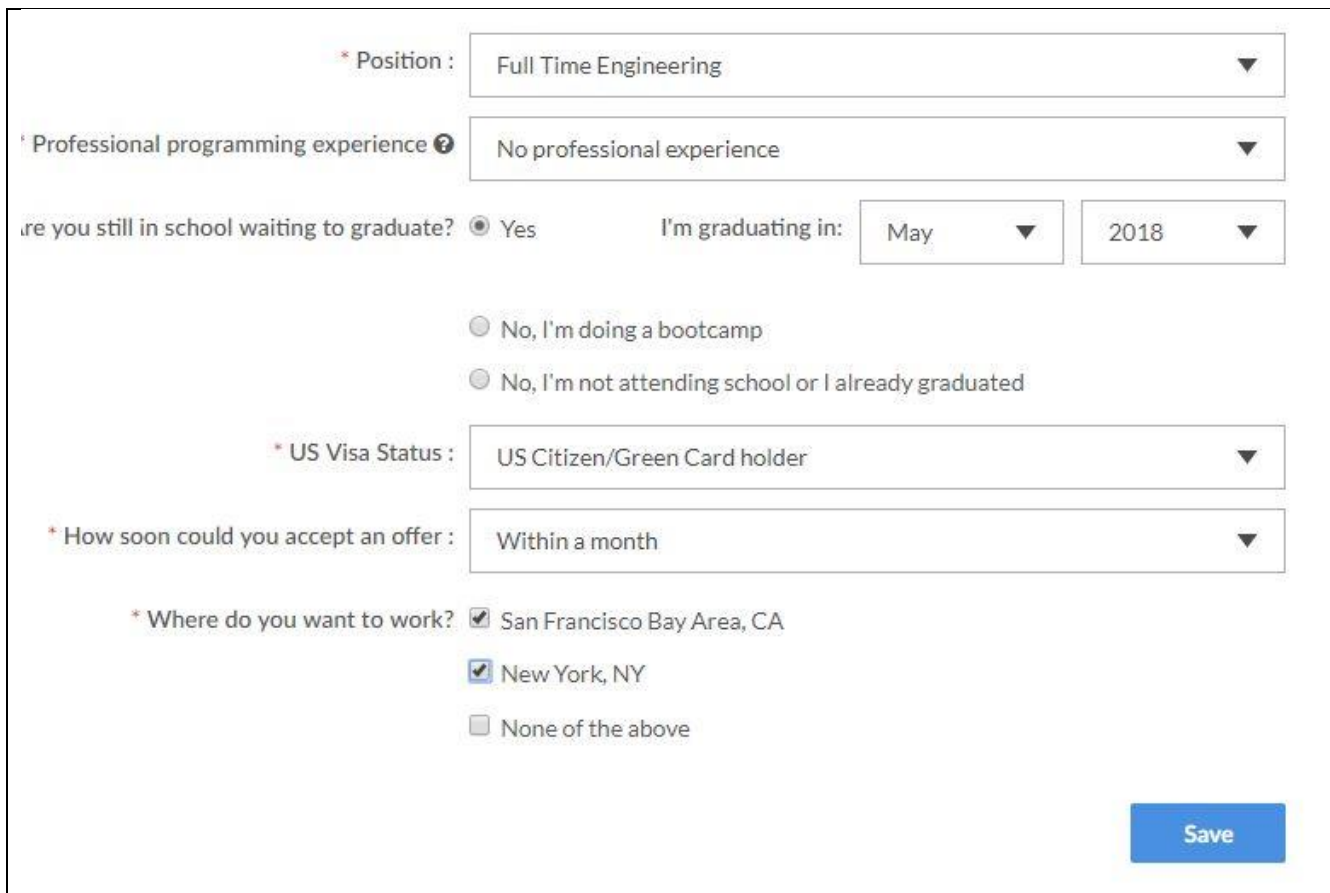
The next screen was a tad confusing. It wants me to list my position. But Programmer is not even selectable.



\* Position :

- Non-Engineering
- Full Time Engineering
- Part Time
- Remote
- Internship
- Non-Engineering

After a dozen more, pop ups saying they don't support that selection, I got this.



\* Position : Full Time Engineering

\* Professional programming experience ? No professional experience

Are you still in school waiting to graduate? ☒ Yes I'm graduating in: May 2018

☐ No, I'm doing a bootcamp

☐ No, I'm not attending school or I already graduated

\* US Visa Status : US Citizen/Green Card holder

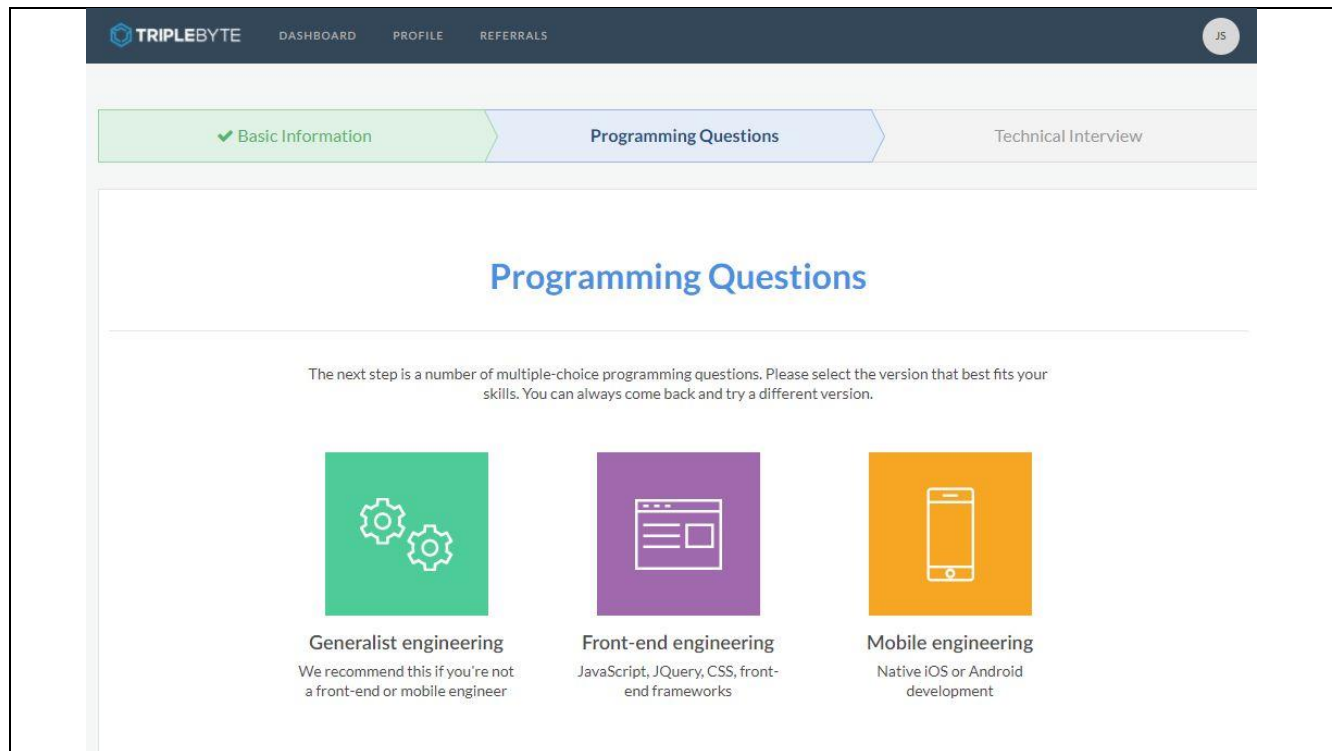
\* How soon could you accept an offer : Within a month

\* Where do you want to work? ☒ San Francisco Bay Area, CA ☒ New York, NY ☐ None of the above

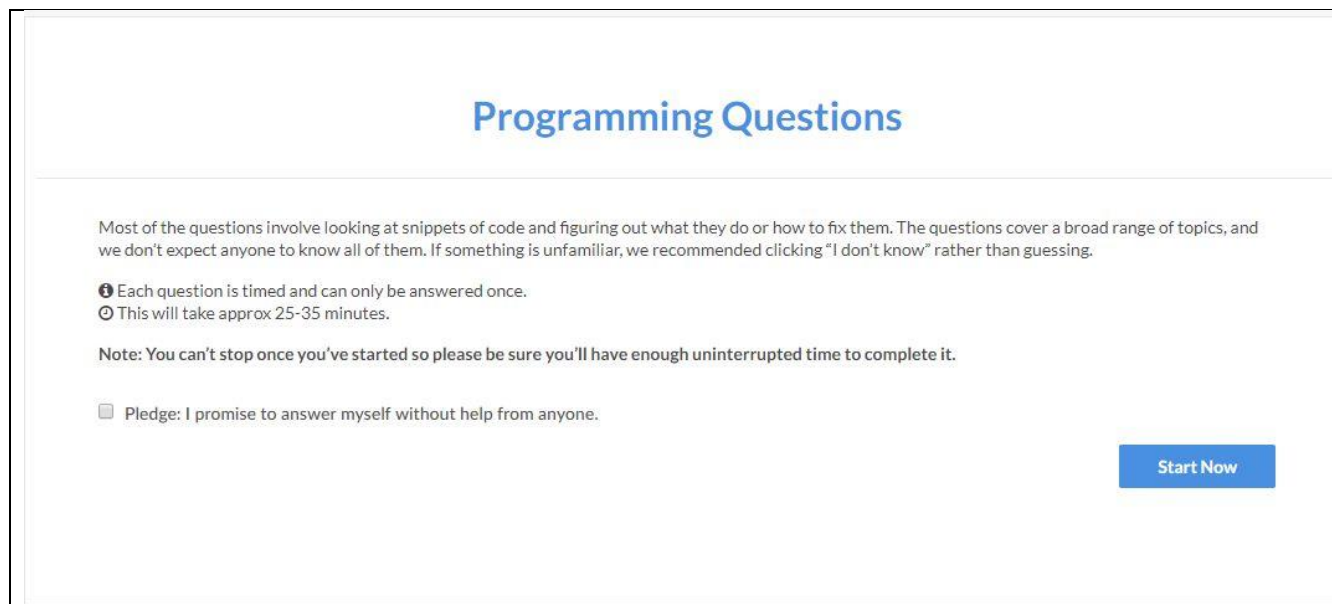
Save



Once saved, I was presented with the programming questions.



I picked Generalist Engineering, which launched this screen.



### Question 1 out of about 35

01 min 56 sec

The following code manages the position of the main character in a video game. Which of these statements about it is most accurate?

Language: Python

```
1 def onFrame(self):  
2     self.character.velocity_y += 9.81  
3     self.character.y += character.velocity_y  
4     self.character.x += character.velocity_x  
5  
6     # ...
```

Select the correct answer:

- ✓ ☐ If some frames take longer to compute than others, the character's vertical acceleration could be inconsistent, from one frame to the next.
  - ✓ ☐ This code is memory inefficient. Rather than having separate variables — one for velocity\_y, and one for velocity\_x — we should have a single variable, velocity, that tracks velocity across both axes.
  - ✓ ☐ If some frames take longer to compute than others, the character's vertical acceleration could be inconsistent, from one point in time to the next.
  - ✓ ☐ These operations are in the wrong order. We should first add the character's velocity to its position, and then add the acceleration constant to its velocity.
- 
- ✓ ☐ I don't know

## Question 2 out of about 35

01 min 55 sec

What's wrong with this code:

Language: Python

```
1 # returns the content of all div tags on an HTML page as a list
2 def get_all_div_tag_contents(html_text):
3     result = []
4     html_tag_regex = "<([\w]+)([^\>]*?)([^\s]*\>)" + \
5         "|(\>(((^[\<]*?|<!\<-\>|<!--\>)|(?R))*)\</\>1[^\s]*\>)"
6     for tag_tuple in re.findall(html_tag_regex, html_text):
7         result.append(tag_tuple[5])
8     return result
```

Select the correct answer:

- ✓ It's impossible to parse an arbitrary HTML page with regular expressions. This code should be refactored to use a proper HTML parser.
- ✓ There's a missing closing bracket in the regex, HTML tags won't get matched with this regex.
- ✓ findall() returns a list, while finditer() returns an iterator. This could be a huge performance difference if you're going to handle big HTML pages. It's better to refactor this code to use finditer.
- ✓ tag\_tuple[5] may throw an exception if tag\_tuple has less than 6 elements, which may happen if div doesn't have any content.
- ✓ I don't know

## Question 3 out of about 35

01 min 52 sec

Suppose you want to deploy a CPU-bound single-threaded app server to a machine with 16 logical CPU cores. Which design makes the most sense to maximize performance?

Select the correct answer:

- ✓ It's rarely helpful to run multiple copies of a CPU bound app server (the global interpreter lock means they just take turns). You'll want to make sure that TCP buffers are small, and that you're using fastCGI.
- ✓ You'll want a flexibly sized pool of server processes. This pool can grow if CPU utilization is low, and shrink if it's high. Then you can use round-robin DNS to balance load between them.
- ✓ You'll want your app server to fork() a new process on every request. This has better socket utilization and a lower memory footprint under load vs creating a fixed number of processes up-front.
- ✓ You'll want 16 copies of your app server, with a reverse proxy (like NGINX) in front to balance load and provide persistent connections and security.

✓ I don't know

Submit

Question 4 out of about 35

01 min 55 sec

Which of the following makes the most sense as part of scaling a SQL database to handle increased write load?

Select the correct answer:

- ✓ Writing to a materialized view, rather than to the main table
- ✓ Adding database replicas (in a master-slave configuration) to scale horizontally
- ✓ Adding database indices on the columns most often updated
- ✓ Removing little-used indices from the database and batching writes (where possible)

✓ I don't know

Question 5 out of about 35

01 min 46 sec

What is the value of g after the following code block runs?

Language: Javascript

```
1 function f(x) {  
2   x *= 2;  
3   return function(y) {  
4     y *= x;  
5     return function(z) {  
6       return z * y;  
7     }  
8   }  
9 }  
10  
11 let g = f(3)(4)(5);
```

Select the correct answer:

- ✓ 60
- ✓ 120
- ✓ An error occurs
- ✓ 5

✓ I don't know

### Question 6 out of about 35

01 min 41 sec

What's wrong with this code?

Language: Java

```
1 // return a string with the bits in binary
2 // of a 32-bit int
3 public static String getBitStringForInt(int n) {
4     StringBuilder rtn = new StringBuilder();
5     for (int i = 31; i >= 0; i--) {
6         int v = (1 << i) & n;
7         rtn.append(v == 1 ? "1" : "0");
8     }
9     return rtn.toString();
10 }
```

Select the correct answer:

- ☒ The loop starts at 31, but should start at 32. Off by one
- ☒ The code checks the bits from right to left, but appends them from left to right
- ☒ The check `v == 1` should be `v != 0`. The non-zero result will have 1 bit set, but in many different positions
- ☒ Everything's good
- ☐ I don't know

### Question 7 out of about 35

02 min 52 sec

Suppose you're designing a distributed worker library, and would like it to be able to queue jobs using a number of different message queuing services (RabbitMQ, Amazon Simple Queue Service, ZeroMQ). What's a good way to handle making our code work with each of these services?

Select the correct answer:

- ☒ We can use a global "queuing\_service" variable. This will be initialized to a flag like "rabbit\_mq", or "amazon\_sqs". Anywhere in our code where we need to interact with the queuing service, then, we can use a switch statement on this variable to make sure that we do the right thing.
- ☒ The best way is actually just to write 3 versions of the library (one for each of the queuing services). We'll end up with simpler (and faster) code in each case.
- ☒ As long as all our functions are referentially transparent, this is not really a problem. Referential transparency means that the order in which our methods are evaluated is irrelevant, and we can just run the code for all of our queuing services. The ones that are not set up will not cause any problems.
- ☒ We could design a base interface that defines how our library will interact with the queue service. We can create several implementations of this interface (one for RabbitMQ, one for ZeroMQ, etc). A method that runs when our library loads can look at config details, and instantiate the correct object.
- ☐ I don't know

Question 8 out of about 35

01 min 58 sec

What's the expected output of the following JavaScript code?

Language: Javascript

```
1 function foo() {  
2  
3   function bar() {  
4     setTimeout(  
5       () => console.log('Curly'),  
6       1000);  
7   }  
8  
9   console.log('Larry');  
10  return bar;  
11 }  
12  
13 let x = foo();  
14 x();  
15 console.log('Moe');
```

Select the correct answer:

- ☒ Moe, Larry, Curly.
- ☒ Curly, Larry, Moe.
- ☒ Larry, Moe, Curly.
- ☒ It won't compile.
- ☒ I don't know

**This was the only question that I remotely thought about answering, but quickly confused myself with the lambda expression of the anonymous function, and the return of the bar with no ().**



### Question 9 out of about 35

02 min 55 sec

Imagine you're building a massively multi-player Pac Man game. You want hundreds of players to be able to play Pac Man against each other at the same time. You're going to pay prize money to the best players, so it's important that you limit their ability to cheat. How might you best build this?

Select the correct answer:

- ☒ Socket.IO is the way to go. Each client can open a web socket connection to the server, and transmit an event whenever their player moves. These events will be emitted to every other player in the game. That way every client will know where all the other players are, and can detect when they should die and remove themselves from the board
  - ☒ None of these designs make sense
  - ☒ A peer-to-peer architecture makes the most sense (the latency of a client-server version would be a problem). Each player could have a list of peers near them in the game, and send those peers their location every frame. You could have a voting system (like a blockchain) where clients vote to resolve state conflicts and agree on the final version.
  - ☒ A server needs to run a canonical copy of the game, with all players. Each client can also run a copy of their region of the game, and use this to interpolate states between server updates. Clients would send their control inputs to the server (perhaps with a time stamp, although that raises cheating issues), and receive updates for all players near them.
- 
- ☒ I don't know

### Question 10 out of about 35

01 min 56 sec

In which of the following uses would a read-write lock most outperform a simple mutex?

Select the correct answer:

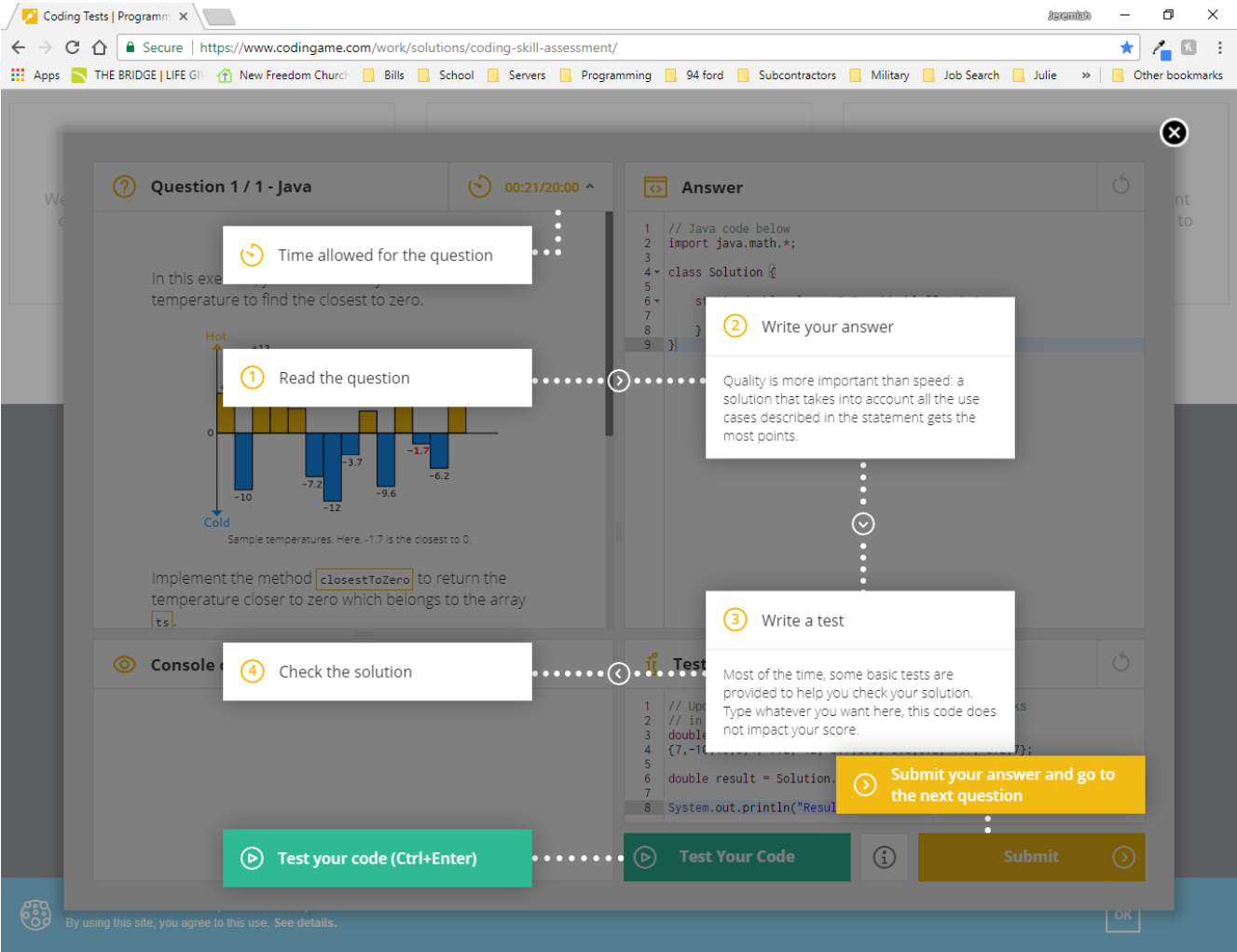
- ☒ To control access to a dynamic list class in a read-heavy concurrent environment.
- ☒ To control access to a dynamic list class in a write-heavy concurrent environment.
- ☒ To control access to a critical section of very short duration (will be locked very briefly).
- ☒ To control access to a database from a cluster of worker processes.

☒ I don't know

**After the 10 questions, I just hit log out, and never completed the sign-up process.**

Codeingame.com

This was the DEMO for how their site works.



I gave it a shot.



Implement the method `closestToZero` to return the temperature closer to zero which belongs to the array `ts`.

- If `ts` is empty, return 0 (zero).
- If two numbers are as close to zero, consider the positive number as the closest to zero (eg. if `ts` contains -5 and 5, return 5).

Input:

- Temperatures are always expressed with floating point numbers ranging from -273 to 5526.
  - `ts` is never `null`.
-

I spent about 5 minutes trying to solve this but had no idea how to go further.

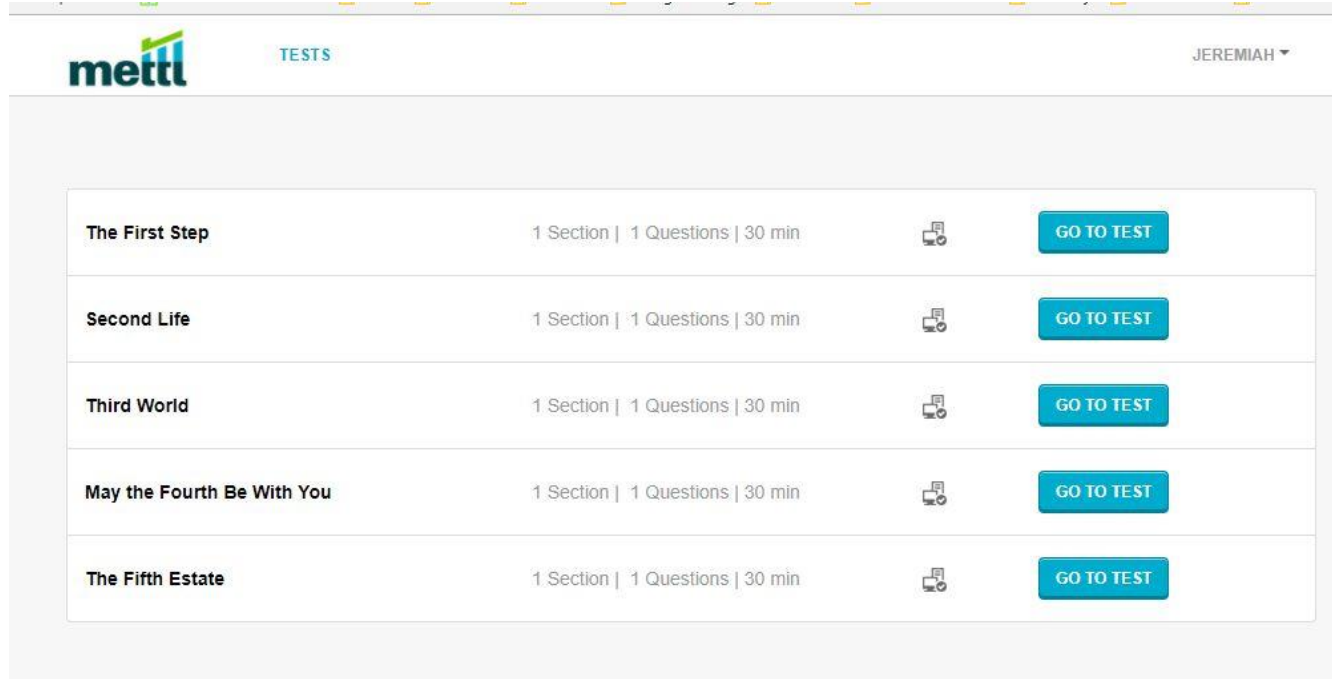







## Answer

```
1 // Java code below
2 import java.math.*;
3
4 class Solution {
5
6     static double closestToZero(double[] ts)
7     {
8         double sendback = 0.0;
9         if(ts.length() == 0)
10        {
11            sendback = 0;
12        }
13        for( int i = 0; i < ts.length(); i++)
14        {
15
16        }
17    }
18 }
```

Mettle.com

This is the dashboard after signing up.



The First Step	1 Section   1 Questions   30 min		GO TO TEST
Second Life	1 Section   1 Questions   30 min		GO TO TEST
Third World	1 Section   1 Questions   30 min		GO TO TEST
May the Fourth Be With You	1 Section   1 Questions   30 min		GO TO TEST
The Fifth Estate	1 Section   1 Questions   30 min		GO TO TEST

Clicking GO TO TEST displayed this screen.



The First Step

## Things to remember

1. To ensure an uninterrupted test-taking experience, you may close all chats, screen-saver etc before starting the test.
2. Do not press "F5" during the test at any time as doing so will cause your test to finish abruptly.
3. Please make sure that you have a steady internet connection before taking the test.
4. In case your test suddenly shuts off due to power supply being disconnected you can restart from where you left off (with your previous answers saved) within a few minutes. You need to follow the same steps to start your test as now and use the same registration details.

#### TEST DETAILS

Section Name	No. of Questions	Time Limit (Mins)
Coding Problem	1	30

Total Test Duration: 30 Mins

LAUNCH TEST

Online Test Window - Google Chrome

Secure | <https://tests.mettl.com/test-window-api?ecc=kwgBJS4MI%2BvW03GYmiF7Ru9FW0wb6YVnsEYgogo9w%2Fw%3D&showReg=true#/testWindow/0/0/2>

**mettl** The First Step 1 Total 00:28:19 Finish Test

Section 1 of 1 Coding Prot. 1 < 1 of 1 > All 1

**Question # 1** Revisit

**How to attempt?**  
**Question :**  
**Majority Element**

Given 'n' ( $1 \leq n \leq 1000$ ) integers, find the majority element (the integer which occurs more than half the times i.e., occurs more than  $n/2$  times).

If there is no unique majority element, return -1.

**Input Specification:**  
**input1:** the number 'n'  
**input2:** an array of 'n' integers

**Output Specification:**  
Return the the majority element or -1 accordingly.

**Example 1:**  
**input1:** 3  
**input2:** {1,2,1}

**Output:** 1

**Explanation:**  
The element '1' appears 2 times, which is more than the half of the total number of elements.

**Example 2:**  
**input1:** 4  
**input2:** {1,2,1,2}

**Language:** JAVA6 **Compiler:** Java - 1.6 Reset Settings

```
1 import java.io.*;
2 import java.util.*;
3
4 // Read only region start
5 class UserMainCode
6 {
7
8     public int majority(int input1,int[] input2){
9         // Read only region end
10        // Write code here...
11        throw new UnsupportedOperationException("majority(int input1,int[] input
12    }
13 }
```

Code Results Your Testcase Compile & Test

**Console Output :** +

POWERED BY **mettl** Jeremiah | Support +1-650-924-9221 +91-82878-03040

I read the instructions on the left, and reread them, and then exited the test. I could not even comprehend what they were wanting me to do.

## Conclusion

By now one should have come to understand that the Computer Programming & Development Degree learning outcomes of the courses contained herein are not providing the necessary concepts to be considered for employment as a computer programmer via the online vetting system that the hiring firms are using.