# THE BREAK INTO TECH SYLLABUS

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# THE BREAK INTO TECH
# BLUEPRINT
## *syllabus*

**PROGRAM GOALS**

**1**    Learn the design and coding foundations that all technical workers need.

**2**    Find out what you love and specialize in design or development.

**3**    Set personal career goals and start a freelance business or get hired in tech.

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# WHAT'S THE BREAK INTO TECH BLUEPRINT ALL ABOUT?

When you're starting out in tech, figuring out what job to go after and what skills to learn can feel like a huge obstacle.

Our one-of-a kind, 100% online digital skill training program is customized to your unique goals. We'll help you learn the skills you need, choose the right career path, and get set up for success in the career of your dreams.

How the The Break Into Tech Blueprint works:

- **No more tough decisions**
  The Break Into Tech Blueprint is designed so you can start as a complete beginner and get personalized career coaching at every step of the way. We'll guide you through each step, so you never have to make a big decision alone.

- **Three structured phases**
  With built-in checkpoints and 3 phases of progressive learning, you'll always have an eye on your progress and will know exactly when you're job-ready.

- **Step-by-step personalization and mentorship**
  No tech career is exactly like another. That's why your Ultimate Tech Career Blueprint is fully personalized to serve your unique career goals.

- **You set the pace**
  Unlike most bootcamps, you don't have to quit your job or move to the big city to learn the skills you need. Work at your own pace, whether that's 5 hours a week or 25.

- **You define success**
  Whether you're learning tech skills to get a remote job or start freelancing, we'll show you exactly what to do to get there—and guide you every step of the way.

- **Real results**
  We won't rest until you've reached your career goals, whether that means building up a stable of clients or getting a job offer from a tech company.

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## PHASE 1

# BUILD YOUR FOUNDATION

**TIMELINE:** 3 months

All aspiring technologists must start with a solid foundation in basic coding languages and industry best practices. By the time you finish this phase, you'll have a personal portfolio website and a solid understanding of what working in tech is all about.

## YOU'LL LEARN

- **HTML & CSS -** the coding skills used to build and add styles to all websites
- **Git & GitHub -** A version control system that ALL developers need to know

## SUPPORT

- Weekly Office Hours in your given class
- An active community of classmates and instructors
- Instructors available to answer questions by email

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# THE CURRICULUM

| CLASS | **Orientation**<br>Find out what to expect from your classes, how to connect with your instructor and classmates, where to get help, important tips for learning success, and more. |
|---|---|
| CLASS | **101: HTML & CSS**<br>Learn the fundamentals of HTML & CSS, the foundational coding languages that all websites are built on. |
| CLASS | **105: Git, GitHub, and the Command Line**<br>Learn how to use the most popular and essential collaboration and version control tools. |
| MILESTONE | **Build & Launch a Portfolio Website**<br>Code and launch your own personally branded portfolio website. |
| ASSESSMENT | **Foundation Final Assessment**<br>Pass a multiple-choice final quiz to reinforce everything you've learned before moving on to the next phase. |

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# PHASE 2

# LEVEL UP

Now that you have a solid foundation, it's time to specialize! You'll work with your Career Counselor to customize your learning path for a more immersive experience in your areas of interest. By the time you finish this phase, you'll have an impressive portfolio of projects and be ready to work with clients.

## YOUR PATH

1.  **Career Counseling Session**
    Meet with your career counselor to discuss your career goals and get advice on your learning path.

2.  **Core Classes** *(Required)*
    Kick things off with core classes in design, development, or both!

3.  **Career Counseling Session**
    Check in with your career counselor and discuss your specialization options.

4.  **Specialization Classes** *(Optional)*
    Make yourself even more marketable with additional specialization classes in WordPress.

5.  **Career Counseling Session**
    Check in with your career counselor once more before moving on to the next phase.

## SUPPORT

- Regular Feedback Sessions or Office Hours for your given class (at least 2x week)
- An active community of classmates and instructors
- Instructors available to answer questions by email
- Career counseling sessions to get advice on your learning options

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# THE CURRICULUM

**CORE CLASSES** *(REQUIRED)*

Customize your core track with classes in design or development (or both). Choose Visual Design, Front End Development, or combine them both for a true Unicorn path!

## VISUAL DESIGN (2-3 months)

| CLASS | **107: Visual Design Fundamentals & Tools**<br>Learn the basic principles of designing for the web, including how to create user personas, color schemes, typescales, wireframes, and visual hierarchy. |
|---|---|
| CLASS | **207: Branding & Identity Design**<br>Learn how to build & design a company's brand and identity, including how to create audience profiles, mission statements, logos, and a style guide. |
| CLASS | **307: Visual Design Professional**<br>Learn how to successfully launch a brand, including how to design a landing page, iterate based on feedback, and kickstart your career as a visual designer. |
| ASSESSMENT | **Visual Design Final Assessment**<br>Pass a multiple-choice final quiz to reinforce everything you've learned in this segment. |

## FRONT END DEVELOPMENT (2-3 months)

| CLASS | **102: Intro to JavaScript**<br>Learn the JavaScript principles you need to get started as a developer, including computational thinking, algorithms, objects, loops, arrays, and more. |
|---|---|
| CLASS | **206: Responsive Web Development**<br>Learn the process for developing responsive web designs, including how to set up your code, set breakpoints for different screen sizes, make responsive typography and images, and code responsive layouts. |
| ASSESSMENT | **Front End Final Assessment**<br>Pass a multiple-choice final quiz to reinforce everything you've learned in this segment. |

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Once you've completed your core classes, you'll be perfectly prepared for your next Milestone Project:

| MILESTONE | **Complete a Simple Project**<br>We'll guide you through completing—and getting paid for—your very first simple design project. |
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## SPECIALIZATION CLASSES *(OPTIONAL)*

Customize your track even further with additional specialization classes in WordPress and full-stack development!

### WORDPRESS (2-3 months)

| CLASS | **103: Intro to WordPress**<br>Learn the basics of the most in-demand content management system on the web, including the full admin back-end, posts, pages, loops, and how to install and customize themes. |
|---|---|
| CLASS | **203: WordPress Professional Best Practices**<br>Learn how to build WordPress into a robust content management system using a wide range of plug-ins, custom post types, a few other tricks used by the pros. |

### FULL-STACK (3-4 months)

| CLASS | **104: Ruby**<br>Once you've learned how to build the front-end of a site, learn how to make it function with Ruby, a back-end programming language. |
|---|---|
| CLASS | **204: Sinatra & ActiveRecord**<br>Learn how to get all those fancy Ruby scripts onto the web using Sinatra, ActiveRecord, and Postgres. |
| CLASS | **304: Ruby on Rails**<br>Learn the ins and outs of the Rails programming framework, including how to scaffold data resources, write your own RSpec tests, and manage users and user permissions. |

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After completing your specialization classes, you'll be ready to dive into your next Milestone Project:

| MILESTONE | **Contribute to an Open Source Project**<br>We'll show you how to find and make a small contribution to an open source project on the Web. |
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# PHASE 3

# GO PRO

**TIMELINE:** 2 months+

Now that you have the skills you need, it's all about applying them in the real world! In this phase, you'll work with your Career Counselor to decide what success looks like for you, whether that's freelancing or landing a job in tech.



FREELANCE

EMPLOYMENT

1. **Core Classes** *(Required)*
   Begin this phase with a solid foundation in freelancing, including landing clients, writing a proposal, scoping, budgeting, and getting paid for a full client project.

2. **Career Counseling Session**
   Meet with your career counselor to get advice on your career path and specialization options.

3. **Specialization Topics** *(Optional)*
   Build up your freelance business or land an onsite or remote job in tech.

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## SUPPORT

- Regular Office Hours for your given classes
- An active community of classmates and instructors
- Instructors available to answer questions by email
- Career counseling sessions to get advice on your career path
- Personal portfolio and resume reviews
- 1-on-1 interview and client proposal practice sessions

# THE CURRICULUM

## CORE CLASSES *(REQUIRED)*

| CLASS | **Introduction to Freelancing**<br>Learn everything you need to know to start working on freelance projects, including how to overcome impostor syndrome, price and market your services, find clients, land a paid project, scope and budget your project, and write and present a winning proposal. |
|---|---|
| ACTIVITY | **Prepare & Practice Client Scenarios**<br>Prepare and practice various client discussion & presentation presentation scenarios with an advisor. |

## SPECIALIZATION TOPICS *(OPTIONAL)*

Customize your track even further with additional specialization topics related to freelancing, employment, or both!

### FREELANCING

| CLASS | **Build a Freelance Business**<br>Level up and learn how to build and market a successful freelance business, set up your client workflow, business license, taxes, and accounting, and maintain a healthy pipeline of clients. |
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## EMPLOYMENT

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|---|---|
| **MILESTONE** | **Polish Your Career Materials**<br>Get your resume, cover letter, portfolio, and social media polished up and ready to set you apart from the crowd. |
| **ACTIVITY** | **Prepare and Practice Interviewing Techniques**<br>Prepare and practice various interviewing techniques in advance of a 1-on-1 mock interview with an advisor. |

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## PHASE 4

# GRADUATE!

Once you're satisfied with all the skills and expertise you need, it's time to get out there and start applying them in the real world! We'll help you get all your ducks in a row and put your best foot forward.

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# STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email career@skillcrush.com!

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