

// FLATIRON SCHOOL

GUIDE

# The Tech Beginner's Guide to Finding the Right Coding Bootcamp





# How to choose the best coding bootcamp for you

The tech industry is a pervasive part of our lives — from smartphone apps and drones to big data that companies use to make decisions about the future — tech is everywhere. Tech careers can be exciting and fulfilling, they often offer higher paychecks and more flexible lifestyles allowing for remote work, and perks such as free lunch, massages, and kombucha on tap.

Getting ready for a career in tech means finding the right training, but things can get confusing when you start your online research. There are tons of intensive training programs that promise to help you quickly learn the skills in order to start your next career soon — and they're all a little different.

Sorting out the programs, understanding what they offer, and choosing the best course can be a challenge.

This eBook is your guide to the most frequently asked questions about where to learn to code, how to fit a coding bootcamp into your schedule, what you'll learn, and how to pay for it.

## What Is a Coding Bootcamp?

A coding bootcamp is an intensive training course that teaches beginners to code and gives them the practical skills they'll need to land a tech job. More than [33,000 U.S. adults graduated from bootcamps in 2019](#), according to Career Karma, and the number of bootcamp students is on the rise.

Bootcamps take only a few months to complete, as opposed to going back to university for four years, and bootcamps typically have more intensive job-placement support than a college or university. Those are two big reasons that working adults seek out bootcamps when they want to change careers.

And don't forget the cost difference. College can cost upwards of [\\$99,000](#) plus fees, where many bootcamp programs can be completed for less than \$20,000.

### About Flatiron School Programs

Flatiron School offers full-time programs that you can complete in as little as 15 weeks, or if you need a more flexible schedule, you can finish in 20, 40, or 60 weeks. Plus, Flatiron School graduates receive 1:1 career coaching for 180 days after graduation included in the cost of tuition.

[Learn More](#)

#### BOOTCAMP GRADS

**+ 33,000**

The number of U.S. adults graduated from bootcamps in 2019, according to Career Karma.

#### BOOTCAMP COST

**\$20,000**

Many bootcamps can be completed for \$20,000 or less.

VS.

#### COLLEGE COSTS

**\$99,000**

College can cost upwards of \$99,000 plus fees.

# Should you teach yourself to code for free?

Good question. There are plenty of free resources online to help you learn to code. In fact, some bootcamps offer [free coding lessons for beginners](#) in HTML & CSS, JavaScript, Ruby, and API Integration. These free lessons are a great way to see if you like the work before committing to a coding bootcamp.

That said, paid software engineering training courses offer benefits you don't get when you're learning on your own. For instance, if you want to learn coding in order to get a job, some employers will prefer the kind of formal training you get at a bootcamp.

## Benefits of learning in a coding bootcamp

### A supportive learning environment & community

Whether you do your bootcamp in person or online, a good school will make sure you have opportunities to engage with your learning community.

- Interactions with your instructor, in person or over video and chat.
- Group projects and paired programming sessions with your classmates.
- Dedicated chat channels, panel discussions, and project showcases.

Learning from an [instructor](#) can help you move past stumbling blocks you might run into learning on your own. Collaborating with your peers is excellent practice for a career in tech.

### Practical instruction with real-world problems

Building UIs for web apps, debugging code, creating reusable objects, and building HTTP servers are just a few of the projects students can take on during our [Software Engineering course](#). For most students, these kinds of hands-on tasks are easier to learn with guidance from an experienced instructor and input from other students.

## Learn to Code for Free



Intro to HTML & CSS



Intro to JavaScript



Intro to Ruby



Intro to API

Get started at:

[flatironschool.com/learn-to-code-for-free](https://flatironschool.com/learn-to-code-for-free)



## Individual career coaching and a proven job-search framework

Some bootcamps offer career coaching before you graduate and for months after. But, the best bootcamps will include 1:1 coaching for students so they can land a great first job in their new career.

For example, [Flatiron School's career coaches](#) start working with students about 30 days before graduation and offer support for 180 days after graduation.

## A verified record of graduate job placements and salaries

Because of the intensive training, job-ready portfolio, and career guidance—and the fact that bootcamp students are highly motivated—bootcamp graduates typically have a good track record of getting hired quickly in their new industry.

Of course, results can vary, and each school is a little different. Before you choose a course, look for their most recent [jobs report](#). It should include the percentage of new graduates who accepted a job in their field within a year and the average starting salary for new graduates. Ideally, the school will have a third party verify their numbers.

### FLATIRON SCHOOL JOBS REPORT STATS

**86%**

of 2019 graduates accepted jobs within a year.

**+50%**

of 2019 graduates were hired within two months of graduation.

**\$71,665**

was the average starting salary for 2019 graduates.

\*For job-seeking on-campus and online graduates included in the 2020 Jobs Report including full-time salaried roles, full-time contract, internship, apprenticeship, and freelance roles, and part-time roles during the reporting period. \*For job-seeking online students who accepted full-time salaried jobs during the reporting period and disclosed their compensation. The average starting salary for students who took full-time contract, internship, apprenticeship, or freelance roles and disclosed compensation was \$31/hr. Average pay for a part-time role was \$30/hr (see full Jobs Report report at <https://flatironschool.com/jobs-reports>).



# What Kind of Coding Bootcamp Will Work Best for You?

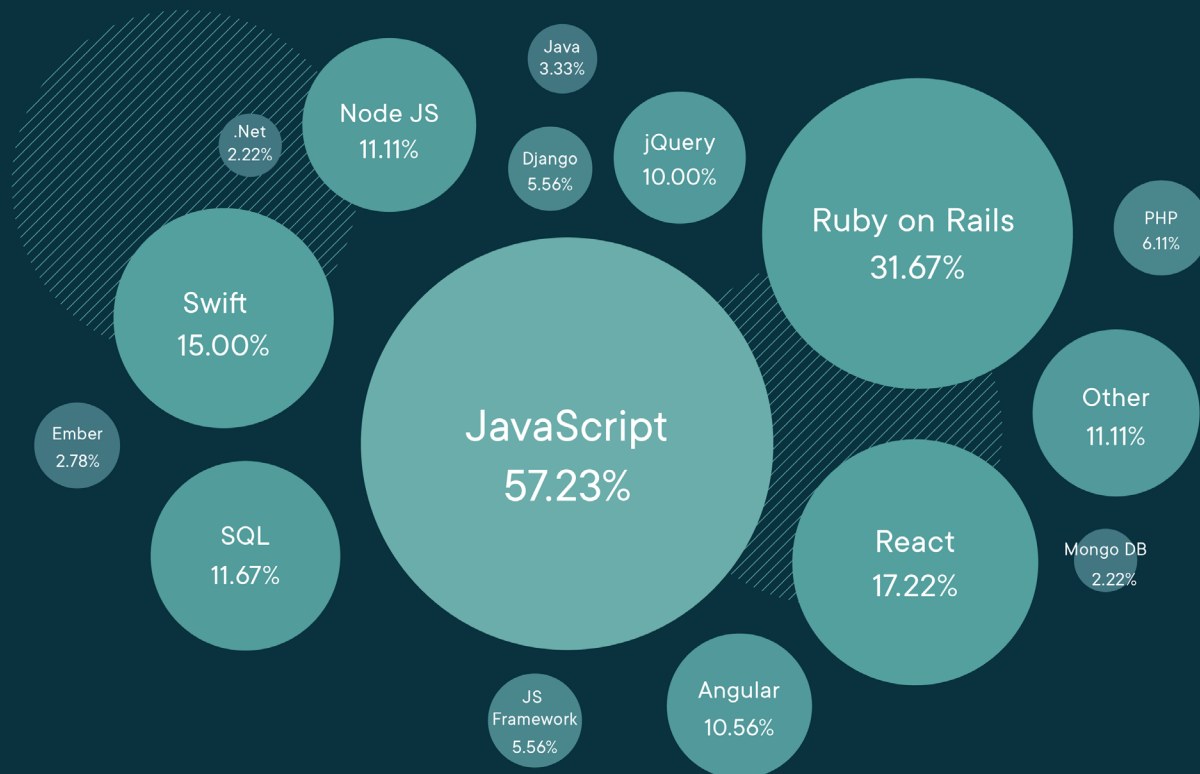
The right course will teach you what you need to know, fit within your schedule, and provide career services support so you can get a job.

Here are the 3 things you should consider when deciding on the right bootcamp for you.

## 1. What programming languages do you want to learn?

This is a key question, because there are a lot of languages used in software engineering. Here's a graph of the most common languages our graduates work with—including the ones they learn on the job after graduation:

### Most Common Coding Languages



According to a [Flatiron School alumni survey](#), these are the most common languages that are used in the industry by bootcamp graduates.

## Which programming languages should you learn first for Software Engineering?

To build a solid foundation and land that first developer job, you should be proficient in JavaScript if you want to be a front-end developer, plus Ruby for full-stack or back-end developers.

Here's [what you'll learn in the coding bootcamp](#) at Flatiron School:

- HTML & CSS
- Git Commands
- Object Relational Mapping & SQL
- JavaScript
- React
- Ruby
- Rack
- Rails

The program at Flatiron School also covers popular frameworks like Redux for building user interfaces. For more details on which languages matter most and why, check out our [comprehensive post on what languages to learn](#).

Once you know which programming languages you want to learn for your career goals, choose a coding bootcamp that teaches the coding languages you want to learn. Any reputable coding bootcamp should list this in their [curriculum or syllabus](#).

## 2. How much time can you dedicate to your class?

One major benefit of a bootcamp is that you can usually choose the pace and length of the program. While going back to college for four years might not be possible for everyone, a coding bootcamp offers a shorter program with hands-on projects that will prepare you for the career field.

Some bootcamps offer [full-time programs](#) where you will be learning in a “live lecture” format for about nine hours each weekday, plus time for studying, of course. This option will allow you to complete a program in as little as 15 weeks. This option could be called the “fast track” option, if you have the time in your schedule to dedicate to your studies.

But, if you need more flexibility in your daily schedule, a [flexible pace option](#) might be more your speed. A flexible pace bootcamp is likely a recorded lecture format. This gives you the freedom to plan around your already-busy schedule, but might not be the best option if you like more structure. Flexible pace options are a little longer, allowing you to complete the program in 20, 40, or 60 weeks, for instance. Even though you're setting your own schedule, you will need extra time for studying and working on projects.

Be realistic about the time you can commit to classes and studying, and look for a program that offers the pace that best fits your lifestyle. After all, this is a big investment, and it should work for you and your schedule so that you can successfully complete the program and start your new career.

## Attend an Event

Want to learn more? Register for one of our free events and info sessions on how to start your tech career, what you'll learn in our software engineering course, and more.

Register Today





### 3. What is your preferred style of learning?

Do you prefer live or on demand lectures? Do you want to learn with a dedicated class of students or are you OK learning independently?

This decision comes down to personal preference. Look for a school that has the learning style where you are most likely to succeed. Some schools will offer in-person and online options. Others might be entirely on-site campus programs. Research this thoroughly to determine all possibilities, and then choose the one that best fits your learning style.

The option you choose will depend on lots of factors, like how much time you have to commute and whether you have child care, but the key factor should be how you learn best. A bootcamp is a big commitment, and you'll get the most value if it fits your learning style.

## Chat with Admissions

Got questions about a bootcamp at Flatiron School?  
Book a 10-minute chat with admissions.

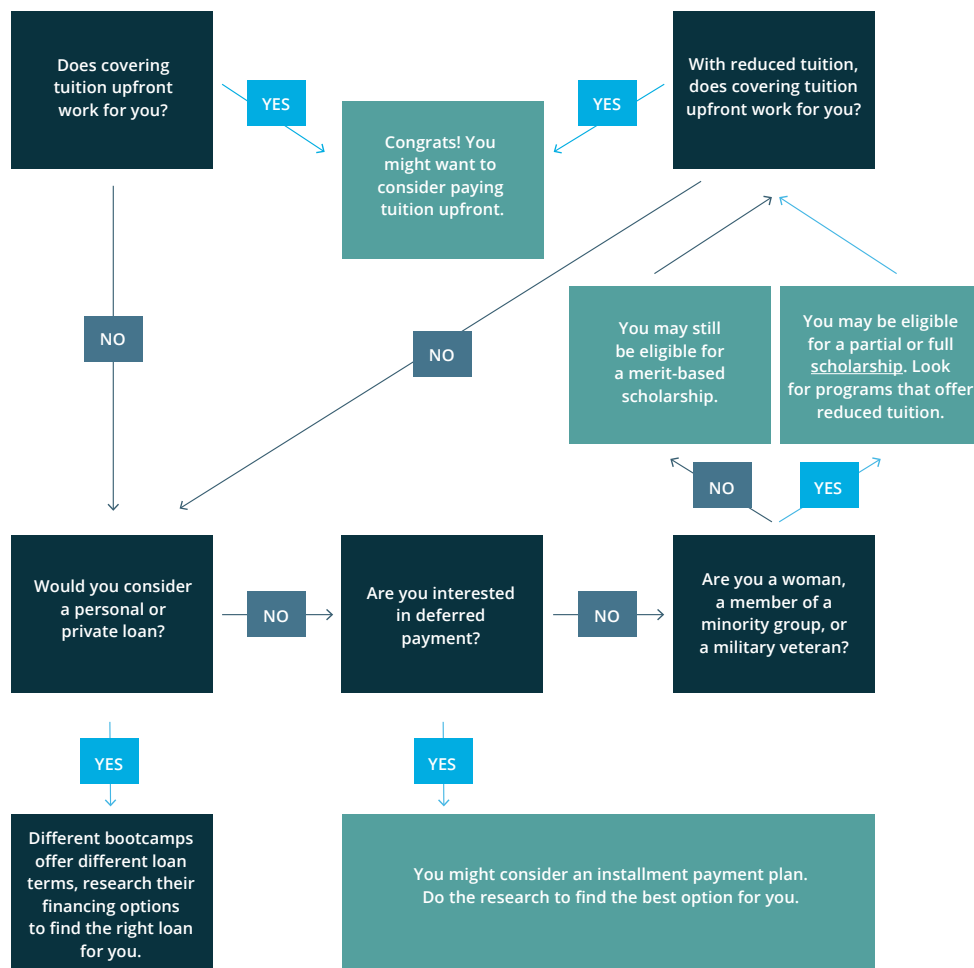
[Register Today](#)

# How will you pay for your software engineer training program?

Average tuition for coding bootcamps in 2020 was \$13,584.<sup>1</sup> That's a lot, but training program grads earn a median of \$65,000 in their first jobs after graduation.<sup>2</sup>

Also, bootcamp tuition is a lot less than a 4-year computer science degree, which can range from \$50K to \$100K.<sup>3</sup> Still, most of us don't have an extra pile of cash in our wallet, so comparing tuition costs, payment plans, and scholarship opportunities is part of finding the right program.

## How to pay for a coding bootcamp.



<sup>1</sup> [NerdWallet, How Much Is Coding Bootcamp.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Course Report, Web Developer Salaries After Coding Bootcamps.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Get Educated, The 25 Most Affordable Bachelor's in Computer Science Online.](#)



## Payment Option 1: Pay out of pocket

If you can pay cash, you'll avoid loan interest and fees. Typically, your course will require a deposit and then you'll either pay the balance as a lump sum or as installments during the course.

Questions to ask:

- What forms of payment do you accept—credit cards, online transfer, something else?
- Is there a discount for paying as a lump sum instead of financing?
- What are the payment deadlines?
- What are the late payment fees?

## Payment Option 2: Get a private-lender loan

Unlike traditional four-year university programs, coding courses don't qualify for federally sponsored student loans. That means you don't have to deal with the FAFSA bureaucracy to get your loan, and you can get a private loan from the lender of your choice.

Many training schools partner with [lenders to offer loans for their courses](#). (For example, Flatiron School partners with Ascent and Climb Credit.) These lenders will usually show you a sample loan and repayment plan when you visit their website or after you share a little information, so you can compare your loan options fast. You may even be able to get a cost-of-living loan to help out while you're taking your course.

Questions to ask:

- Do you offer tuition-only loans, or can you also get a cost-of-living loan?
- How long does it take to get approved?
- What are the fees?
- What's the interest rate?
- What's the total cost of the loan?
- What are the monthly payments?
- When do you start making payments?
- How long will it take to pay off?

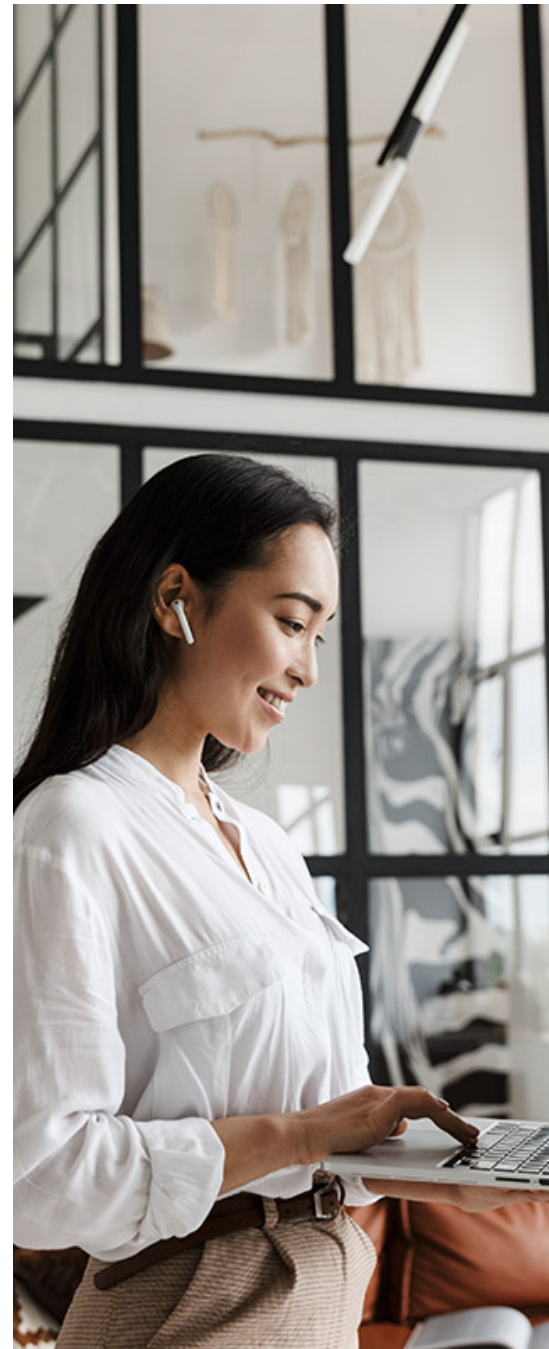
Learn more about your [private loan options](#).

## Payment Option 3: Look for scholarships

You may be able to cover some or all of your costs with scholarships. The schools you're considering may have their own [scholarship programs](#), like Flatiron School's Access Scholarship, which offers qualified applicants up to \$3,000 scholarship. Recipients can enroll without making a tuition deposit. Another example is the National Center for Women & Information Technology scholarship that provides full-tuition [scholarships to women in Alabama and Michigan who apply for online Flatiron School courses](#).

Questions to ask:

- What are the eligibility requirements?
- When are the application deadlines?
- When will you know if you're getting a scholarship?





## Why you should take a coding bootcamp at Flatiron School

Our grads have landed at major tech employers jobs including Apple, Spotify, NASA, and Slack and we are [winning awards](#) along the way, including Career Karma's Best Coding Bootcamps for Q1 2021 and Course Report's Best Bootcamp 2019–2020.

Plus, like we mentioned earlier, you'll get 180 days of 1:1 career coaching included. We have a proven job-search framework that was created to help you get a job. Whether you're ready to learn full-time or need more flexibility (a 20, 40, or 60-week program), we have the program to fit your needs.

Ready to get started with a Flatiron School Software Engineering program?

Apply Today

Prepare yourself to work for some of the most influential companies in the world.



Etsy



The  
New York  
Times





# Your Software Engineer Bootcamp Checklist

Now that you know the most important factors in choosing a software engineering course, it's time to put it all together, complete your research, and make your choice. It's a lot, so we've pulled together this checklist to help you evaluate each program you're considering.

## Does the training course or bootcamp you're looking at have:

|                                                                                                         | Flatiron School                     |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Free resources to use before, during and after your course to build your knowledge                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Core software engineering languages:                                                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| • HTML & CSS                                                                                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| • Git                                                                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| • SQL                                                                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| • JavaScript                                                                                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| • Ruby                                                                                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Full-time and flexible schedule options                                                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Live (in-person) and virtual learning formats                                                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Access to on-campus and online resources                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Paired and group projects to prepare you for real work scenarios                                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Capstone projects to build your portfolio                                                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| An engaged learning community that includes your classmates, instructor, and career coach               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| One-on-one career coaching that starts before you graduate and continues for six months post-graduation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| High, verified graduate placement rates and high average starting salaries                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| Workable options for paying tuition, like partnerships with private lenders and sponsored scholarships  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |  |

When you find a course that ticks all the boxes, you're ready to start training for your new career. Ready to change things?

Apply Now



## Let's stay in touch.

Education should be the best investment you make in your future—and at Flatiron School, we're committed to helping you learn the skills to change your future. Online and on our campuses across the country, we provide the skills, community, and immersive, outcomes-driven curriculum you need to launch a career in software engineering, data science, cybersecurity, or product design.

### Apply Today

Start your application for one of our immersive bootcamps and change your life today.

[Apply Now](#)

### Attend an Event

Join us for a seminar or info session to see what student life is like at Flatiron School.

[See Events](#)

### Chat with Admissions

Have a question about our program that we haven't answered? Our admissions team is here to help.

[Schedule a Chat](#)

Join the Flatiron Family on social:

