



Bridging women into fulfilling technology careers  
AND successfully raise their families.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **COVID-19 and Sessions**

We are continually monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and understand the situation is fluid. Currently, our plans are to have in class sessions and follow CDC guidelines with appropriate social distancing.

In the case of needed adjustments due to changes in current guidelines set by the Utah State we will shift to online remote programs. Childcare services will be reviewed and adjusted to in home support on an individual needs basis.

## **What will you learn?**

Our approach is to help you on-ramp to a career in tech by providing an introductory technology training program with 3 parts:

1. **Overview of the technology landscape (contextual knowledge)** - This is where you'll get the basics about the Internet and the web, commonly used tools and methodologies for web development, plus topical trends and issues.
2. **Basic front-end web development (technical skills)** - You'll become familiar with html and css, and javascript -- three basic building-block languages for websites. You'll also pick up some skills in user experience design, web design, and design thinking.
3. **Networking with peers and industry professionals (community building)** - You'll build a community of support with like-minded peers traversing the journey. You'll also meet industry professionals who visit our classes as guest speakers and lecturers. This helps you expand your professional network and learn directly from technologists in the field, while gaining a better sense of potential career opportunities. (We do our best to get speakers who are moms.)

Our program comprises classroom lectures, discussions, and workshops. (Our Design Thinking workshop has changed lives.) Students are responsible for reading articles and completing coding projects prior to class.

Each class ends with a career-mapping workshop so students leave us with a roadmap to success. Each plan will be tailored to connect each student's educational background, work experience, interests, and goals to a career in tech. Each class also ends with a field trip to a tech company where students can meet a tech team.

[Check out our curriculum here.](#)

## **Is a college degree required?**

Employers almost always require a bachelor's degree for tech roles. Although a bachelor's degree is preferred Tech-Moms will accept applicants with equivalent work experience.

## **Why do I need to provide a \$200 deposit to secure my spot?**

We only have capacity to provide this program to a limited number of moms, and we want to make sure you're committed 100% to completing the program. This deposit is a promise to honor that commitment.

But don't let this stop you from applying if this deposit requirement is a barrier for you! We do have a limited number of scholarships to offer on a case by case basis.



### **Who is this program designed for?**

Our program is specifically designed for moms who want to gain a general understanding of web development and the issues and topics driving the tech industry. While we are not a job readiness program, we do prepare you for entering into one if you so choose.

Moms who come to us are usually seeking tech skills for career advancement, workforce re-entry, or entrepreneurship. They're attracted to our mom-centric learning environment, which includes childcare support, caregiver-friendly class hours, and a focus on community-building . These are essential program elements we've designed to help mothers build a strong foundation for starting a new career in tech.

Through our program, students learn basic frontend web development by building a website using html/css/javascript, while becoming familiar with the technology landscape through guest lectures and workshops delivered by tech professionals in the field. You'll also gain exposure to a wide range of career options that do not require a computer science degree.

### **Who is this program **\*\*NOT\*\*** designed for?**

Our program is specifically designed for beginners in need of a general overview. As such, our curriculum is not designed for you if:

- You want to learn a particular programming language (e.g. Python, Ruby, PHP, Java).
- You are not interested in learning frontend web development (html/css/javascript).
- You cannot devote 6-8 hours each week to doing homework outside of class.
- You are not committed to transitioning into a career in tech.

### **What is the profile of your typical student?**

Our students typically fall into these categories:

1. **Career Changers** - Moms working outside the home who want to transition into a technical role but can't afford to quit their jobs to attend an immersive, full-time bootcamp, nor participate in one-off evening or all-weekend workshops on a consistent basis to attain fluency. These career-changing moms are often unsure about which career path to choose, even though they're committed to transitioning into tech.
2. **Returners** - Moms who have taken a pause in their careers and need to gain tech skills for workforce re-entry. While some returners want to change careers altogether, others have held technical roles prior to becoming mothers and merely need a refresh and a community to thrive.
3. **Entrepreneurs** - Moms with a startup (or idea for one) who want to gain a deeper understanding of the tech landscape so they can bring their ventures to the next level. These moms use this course as an opportunity to build or refine their prototypes, build a website for their business, and connect with people who can support their

entrepreneurial journey.

Students who have had the best outcomes from this program tended to share these characteristics:

#### Experience

- Tried coding before and liked it enough to keep going, preferably in a more structured and in-person environment
- Tried learning to code online or at meetups but found those didn't work for them
- Tried attending tech events and meetups but felt alienated for being a mother

#### Personality

- Has an optimistic attitude, a growth mindset, and intellectual curiosity (hungry)
- Has the ability to thrive in uncertainty (creative, flexible, adaptable)
- Has the will to persevere and resilience to overcome failure (hustle)
- Has a strong desire to be part of, build up, and give back to a community of like-minded women (solidarity)

#### **How does on-site childcare work?**

Reliable and affordable childcare is hard to come by. That's why we provide childcare support -- a major hurdle to participation in most other tech training programs. Childcare offerings vary by location and by need. As you are accepted into the program, we will work with you to review and assess your childcare support needs.

### **Why isn't this program free?**

Thanks to the generosity of our Utah sponsors, tuition for Fall 2020 classes are being offered at a reduced rate of \$1450. In addition, scholarships are being offered on a limited basis.

Generally, we charge students \$4,500 if they need on-site childcare and \$4,000 if they don't. Tuition fees are used to fund program administration, instructors, facility rental, lunch, childcare, and other program expenses. To keep this program accessible, tuition levels currently do not support the actual cost of running the program (\$7,000+), and we raise funds to cover the difference. This is why we're nonprofit.

### **What do graduates do after they finish your program?**

Upon your completion of the program, you will be plugged into Utah's Tech Talent Pipeline through various partnerships to help you access a range of resources for transitioning into a career in tech.

Generally, graduates without any prior coding experience go on to take more advanced classes before landing a technical role. To further strengthen their technical skills and build a portfolio of projects to show to potential employers, some have taken part-time programming classes in mobile and web development, while others have attended workshops, full-time bootcamps, and even graduate programs. Many go on to complete online courses.

For graduates with prior tech industry experience, our program helps expand their understanding of the tech landscape, enabling them to gain enough confidence to get back into the job market. Many who had been working outside the home have been promoted within their companies, or have advanced into roles at new companies with more pay.

But no matter the career goal, our grads regularly get together to attend conferences, hackathons, workshops, and events. They also lean on each other for emotional and professional support, becoming friends along the way.

Check out our gallery of featured grads [here](#).

### **How much time will I need to devote to this program?**

Students are expected to read articles, watch videos, and complete online coding exercises outside of class. Each student is also required to build a website -- either a portfolio-style site aimed at potential employers showcasing technical ability, or a prototype of a product idea.

In-class time will be devoted to workshops and panel discussions delivered by guest speakers, and office-hour style coding workshops to troubleshoot coding projects. While we certainly go over key concepts in class together, our expectation is that students would have done their homework prior to class.

Students should expect to do 6-8 hours of homework outside of class each week. Learning to code is time-intensive, especially in the beginning. Invariably, there will be lots of frustration and trial and error between breakthroughs, as you'll get stuck often and progress in fits and starts. But don't worry: that's a normal part of the process, plus we're here to help!