WELCOME TO LAUNCHCODE

Thank you for your interest in the LaunchCode apprenticeship program! To help you with the application process, we've outlined what you can expect from our apprenticeship program and tips for a successful application. We are so excited to work with you and wish you the best of luck!

What is the LaunchCode apprenticeship?
At LaunchCode, we aim to close the tech talent gap by partnering with hundreds of companies to set up unique apprenticeships that bypass nontraditional credentials and help driven, talented people get their foot in the door. Through the apprenticeship program, you will gain real-world work experience and the chance to further develop your technology skills. As an apprentice, you will be expected to work hard, learn on the job, and collaborate with team members. A dedicated company mentor will also provide support and expertise to help you hone your skills.

What does a typical apprenticeship look like?
While apprenticeships can be modified to meet the individual's and company's needs, a typical apprenticeship lasts 90 days, with the apprentice working full-time for $15 per hour. Be prepared to commit significant time and effort to succeed in your apprenticeship. As an apprentice, you are there to learn and prove yourself to the company in the hopes of getting a full-time job offer.

What is the LaunchCode application?
The application process consists of two parts: an application and a coding puzzle.

PART ONE: APPLICATION

The application collects basic demographic information, and then gives you a chance to tell us about yourself through open questions about your interest in technology and specific tech projects you've worked on. You will also be asked to rate your skills in a number of different technical areas. The application also inquires about your work interests and preferences, and allows you to attach a copy of your resume, and link to your GitHub and LinkedIn accounts.

tips for the application

We encourage you to set aside some time (approximately 30 mins to an hour) to sit down and complete the application without any distraction. Here is some advice to consider while completing the application:

Be thoughtful.

We want to know who you really are and why you are applying to LaunchCode. The best applications are those in which applicants considered why the opportunities LaunchCode offers could be meaningful to them.

Be honest.

Providing honest answers will give us an accurate understanding of your skills and needs. This allows us to help you more effectively and efficiently.

Show, don't tell.

By describing your tech project and uploading links to your GitHub account, you give us the opportunity to fully understand your strengths, and accurately analyze your skill level. Likewise, uploading your resume and LinkedIn account will enable us to give you feedback on how to become more job-ready for the professional world.

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PART TWO: CODING PUZZLE

Once you complete the first part of the application, you will receive an email and link to take the LaunchCode coding puzzle. This is your opportunity to demonstrate your programming skills.

The puzzle gives you 90 minutes to complete 3 problems. It is designed to gauge your familiarity with computer science concepts including strings, integers, variables, arrays, looping, boolean logic, and control flow in the context of solving puzzles and geometric and algebraic problems. You can solve the problems in whichever language you choose (e.g. C, Java, Ruby, etc.) from a dropdown menu in each question.

We will review all of your code on the coding puzzle, so even if you do not get your code compiling, we will still be able to see if you are on the right track. The coding puzzle is not here to scare you or trick you; it is an opportunity for you to show us your skills. Don't worry, getting a zero on the puzzle does not rule you out of an apprenticeship.

tips for the application
We advise that you set aside 30 minutes for each problem. If you find yourself getting stuck, move on to the next problem so that you get the chance to solve all of the problems. *Note that once you begin the test, you will not be able to pause or restart it. If you have technical difficulties, please email us at info@launchcode.org.*

Do the puzzle on your own.
We want a true representation of your skill level, so do not consult/copy code from friends/colleagues to complete the puzzle, though you may reference language documentation on the internet or use an IDE that has code completion features.

Practice makes perfect.
Our coding puzzle is hosted by a company called HackerRank, and its environment can be a little tricky the first few times you use it. Because of this, we encourage you to sign up on HackerRank and try out some of their problems (especially focus on the "Warmup" under Algorithms and "Geometry" and "Summations and Algebra" under Mathematics). This practice will help you get used to the environment and prepare you for the coding puzzle.

launch_code

HackerRank help

In addition, all of the questions read from standard input (STDIN) and output to standard output (STDOUT), but you will actually have set up STDIN/STDOUT yourself. Taking a look at this Sample Problem Statement should give you a good idea of how to set it up (focus on the answer for the language you plan to take your assessment in). You can also check out these problems that provide the STDIN/STDOUT set up:

https://www.hackerrank.com/challenges/solve-me-first

Our technology director has also created a video to help you Rock Your Hackerrank Interview.

What happens after I apply?

If we determine that you are ready to move forward with the process, we will invite you to interview with a LaunchCode representative. However, if you need to strengthen your skills before continuing, we will provide you with resources to help you improve. After you have developed your skills, we invite you to reapply to LaunchCode.

What does a successful LaunchCode candidate look like?

Our LaunchCode candidates come from many different backgrounds and experiences. Just ask LaShana, Lee, and Pablo.

Or check out the other videos we've made about our successful candidates.

We hope that this information gives you a better idea of the LaunchCode application process and what you can expect out of an apprenticeship. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at info@launchcode.org.

Again, we appreciate your interest and wish you best of luck!