

# Web Development Certificate Program

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Who created the Web Development Certificate Program?**

The program was created in Spring 2008 by the Computers & Technology department faculty and staff with input from local industry professionals representing retail, municipal, corporate, small business and non-profit areas. Those professionals helped us select classes that best reflect the set of skills designers need to succeed in the field. Many of the classes have been part of our Continuing Education program for years; others were created specifically for the program.

### **What can I do as a web developer?**

The primary job responsibilities associated with Web developers are:

1. Build and maintain sites and web applications
2. Factor in security and download speed of the designs
3. Effectively analyze technical requirements. Creating the navigational path that allows users to move around within a site
4. Form complete descriptions of all specifications required. Take technical information and translate it to be understood by various audiences. Lay out the components of individual Web pages
5. Plan and execute system tests and write complex code

In general, Web developers work with others, including marketing people who define the content of the website, and web designers who are responsible for the appearance of the site.

### **Q: What industries employ web developers?**

A: According to the [Washington State Employment Security Department](#), the top 15 industries that employ Web developers in King County are:

- Prepackaged Software
- Computer Integrated Systems Design
- Computer Processing and Data Preparation
- Information Retrieval Services

- State Government
- Aerospace
- Online Retailers
- Telecommunications

### **Are there websites listing Web development jobs?**

Yes, there are both industry specific and many general websites you can search for Web development jobs. We recommend that before you make a training commitment, you research many job descriptions to familiarize yourself with the types of skills employers require.

### **What are the technical and non-technical skills a web developer needs to have?**

Because software is used extensively and changes frequently, this list is just a guideline. Skills can vary immensely from industry to industry. For instance, a developer working on a banking application might be required to have accounting skills while a designer in the retail industry may have to know about industry regulations such as Sarbanes-Oxley. The following list provides just some of the basic common technical skills potential job seekers might find in a job posting.

#### *Technical*

- Ability to use programming languages and software tools
- Ability to create secure transactions for users.

#### *Non-Technical*

- Self-motivated
- Ability to learn technical concepts and tools quickly
- Attention to detail
- Able to manage time
- Able to work on one's own
- Able to resolve conflicts
- Able to work effectively with others who may want to do things differently
- Able to be flexible and change objectives
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Requires working in a seated position and looking at a computer screen for prolonged periods

#### *Skill Maintenance Requirement*

High. This technology is changing rapidly, and one must stay current to be effective. Remaining current can be accomplished by reading industry publications and books as they come out, attending conferences, and taking short courses.

**If I have no experience and complete this program, are there entry-level jobs and what is the salary range?**

After finishing this program, you'll have enough tools to pursue entry-level Web developer jobs. Often you will be working with a team and will learn additional skills from your experienced co-workers. The salary range depends on many factors, and we suggest you look at the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#). In addition, [labor market information for King County and Washington State](#) is available.

**How long does it take to complete the program?**

The Web Development Certificate will usually take up to a year on a part-time basis to complete, but it must be completed in no more than 40 months from the quarter in which you take your first class.

**Is there a minimum number of classes I need to take per quarter?**

The program was created with a busy student in mind. It's up to you to select the number of classes you take in a quarter. Our only requirement is that you complete the certificate within 40 months after taking the first class.

**Are there any prerequisites?**

There are no prerequisites required to begin the program. These courses assume that you are familiar with using personal computers and word processing. You should be comfortable in the Windows environment and be able to use Windows to manage information on your computer. Specifically, you should be able to launch and close programs, navigate to information stored on the computer, manage files and folders, and select text prior to taking the required Web development computer courses. Specific courses may have prerequisites.

**Do you have to take classes in a specific order?**

You can take classes in any order except where noted otherwise in class prerequisites (for example, you will need to take XML before taking XSLT Transformations). Common entry points for students are [Web Foundations](#) and [XHTML Level 1](#), neither of which have prerequisites other than knowledge of Windows.

Some electives may be taken prior to completing the required classes. Be sure to check the prerequisites for any electives prior to registering.

**What if I have an extensive experience in some of the topics taught? Can I skip or substitute classes?**

Yes, it is possible to substitute one of the required classes with an elective class. This will be determined by the program advisor on a case-by-case basis and is subject to approval based on work history/experience and prior education. However, you must still complete the total number of required/substituted classes and elective classes to receive your certificate. To request a class substitution, please fill out the [Web Development Class Substitution Request Form](#).

**What if I've already taken some of the classes?**

We'll accept any classes taken from September 2006 forward as long as you have your completion certificate.

**Is there an enrollment process for this certificate program?**

There is no enrollment process. Start any time you like.

**What happens if I'm close to the end of the program and a class is cancelled or not given that quarter?**

We will allow for an extension or select/approve a substitute class for you to complete the program.

**Are these classes software specific?**

Some classes may use specific software ([Web Graphics with Photoshop](#) for example).

**Do I have to buy the software used in class?**

You don't need to purchase the software to take your class. Our classrooms are equipped with PCs with current versions of software loaded for your use. If you pursue a career in Web development, you might need to have your own software, especially if you work as a freelancer. By taking a class at BCC, you are eligible to purchase full version software at a discounted price at our bookstore. Please note that this software is for academic use only.

**Are additional supplies and materials required?**

If a book is required for your class, you'll be given the book when you arrive. We recommend you bring a USB drive to class, and paper and pencil for taking down notes.

**May I re-take a class if I miss a session or want a refresher?**

Re-takes are not permitted.

**How can I register for the classes?**

You can easily [register online for classes](#). You may also register by mail or in person at our North Campus.

**How do I get my certificate when I finish the courses?**

You must retain a "Certificate of Completion" for each completed required and elective class. Once you've earned all of your certificates, make an appointment with the Computer Programs department by calling (425) 564-4005. Bring all your class certificates, have a brief exit interview, and receive your Web Development Certificate.

**Are there professional organizations I can use as resources?**

Yes there are:

<http://www.wdaa.org/> Web Developers Association of America

<http://www.webprogrammer.org/> Web Programmers Association

<http://www.w3.org/> World Wide Web Consortium