Student Guide

We are glad you have chosen to take this course. It is our expectation that this course will provide opportunities to develop your knowledge of the characteristics of five key careers in IT and some of the important skills so that you may decide if a career in IT is the right course for you. The goal of this guide is to help you succeed. It explains things like course requirements and expectations, learning in an online environment, and how to approach a competency-based course.

This specific Skills Powered by Sophia online course is designed to be completed in approximately 10 hours. When you start the course, you are given 60 days and learn on your own schedule. There are no classes to attend or weekly assignments to complete. Please see below for further information about extensions, if needed.

In this course, you will:

- Complete each Challenge by attempting each of the questions.
- Pass the Unit Milestone by getting at least half of the points in the assessment.
- Achieve a total average score of 70% or better across all Challenges and Milestones.
- Successfully complete two self-assessment question Touchstone assignments to complete the course (Touchstones do not count towards your overall score).
- Submit your final score and we will take care of sending the certificate to you!

HOW IT WORKS

To earn a certificate of course completion, you must:

- Complete each Challenge and Milestone by getting at least half of the points in each assessment
- Achieve a total average score of 70% or better across all Challenges and Milestones

WHAT IS A CHALLENGE?

Sophia courses are designed using a problem-based learning model. You can expect to engage in real world scenarios. To assist you in solving these Challenges, we provide multiple tutorials that help you understand the key concepts behind each problem.

You have multiple attempts to solve these problems and you may leave and return to Challenges whenever you want to continue your learning and improve your score (as long as you have remaining attempts). You must get at least half of the Challenge questions correct in a Unit in order to advance to the Milestone for that Unit.

WHAT IS A TOUCHSTONE?

A touchstone is a project-based assessment that helps you apply mastery of course concepts to solve an authentic problem. In this course, the touchstones you will complete are self-assessments and ungraded. They are comprised of open-ended questions that will help you relate the knowledge from the course to your own life and think about how you might be interested in IT careers.

WHAT IS A MILESTONE?

Milestones test your mastery of the concepts taught in the course. You have a set amount of time to complete each Milestone, which is displayed on the Course Dashboard. You must get at least half of the questions correct to pass—but keep in mind that you need to average 70% across all Challenges and Milestones. Milestones are weighted three times as much as Challenges for the purpose of calculating your final score.

BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

Challenges

- Read through each of the questions in the Challenge first so that you have a general idea of what to look for as you watch tutorials.
- View all the tutorials linked to the Challenges. They can be found under the tab "Helpful Tutorials" to the right of the Challenge "Question" tab and provide the information needed to complete that Challenge.
- Take notes on the tutorials as you watch them and write down key terms and definitions, processes, diagrams, etc.
- Use your notes to complete the Challenge questions.

Touchstones

- Give yourself enough time to develop your touchstone.
- Review touchstone descriptions thoroughly to understand the project requirements.
- Review the unit concepts that you mastered while working on the lessons and the milestone.
- If you need any guidance or have any questions while working on your touchstone, please reach out to a learning coach.
- Before you submit a touchstone, proofread and make appropriate edits

Milestones

- Review all Challenges prior to taking the Milestone.
- If you continue to struggle with a concept, contact support@devmountain.com for assistance.
- Take the Milestone at a time and location when you can have sufficient undisturbed time, so you can focus on completing the Milestone successfully.
- Milestones are 'open book', so have two browser windows or tabs open. Use one for viewing relevant tutorials, and the other for the Milestone.

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

LEARNING COACHES

Sophia Learning Coaches provide direct academic and technical support to Sophia students. Learning Coaches interact with students using phone, email, and Live Chat technologies. In this course, learning coaches can assist students with site access issues, usernames, and other technical issues.

- Questions around technical help with the course can be addressed by emailing learningcoach@sophia.org.
- Questions or issues with the content can be addressed by emailing support@devmountain.com

CERTIFICATE

Upon successful completion (overall 70% or better) of the course, you will earn a certificate of completion.

STUDENT HONOR CODE

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in any academic community. At Sophia, failure to comply with the student honor code will result in removal from the course, and/or disqualification to enroll in future courses. By participating in Skills Powered by Sophia, students must abide by the following honor code:

- The answers to all assessments, which include Challenges and Milestones, will be your work and your work alone.
- You will not make questions or answers to Challenges or Milestones available to anyone else.
- You will not engage in any other activities that could dishonestly improve your results or improve or hinder the results of others.

EXTENSION POLICY

We want you to be successful in learning your academic subject. If you do not complete your Sophia course in the allotted 60 days, we do grant an extension, not to exceed 180 total days. Please contact a Learning Coach at learningcoach@sophia.org with any questions on your course extension.

RETAKE POLICY

We allow one (1) Challenge retake per course, and one (1) Milestone retake per unit. You will be prompted to contact the Sophia Learning Coach team if you fail an assessment in the course.

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

We want you to be completely satisfied with your learning experience. We offer a 30-day money back guarantee prior to completion. Please contact a Learning Coach at learningcoach@sophia.org to drop your course and receive a full refund within your first 30 days of the course.

OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE SOPHIA LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

CHAT FEATURE - ("Questions? Lets Chat")

Learning Coaches are available via this Live Chat feature during our office hours.

PROGRESS AND SCORE INDICATORS

Your Course Dashboard Page provides real time feedback on your progress to help you stay on track. The Progress Bar gives you a recommended schedule to ensure a successful completion. The Score indicator plots your current score against the 70% passing mark. The View Report page provides more details on your activity and progress throughout the course.

STUDY GUIDE

The Study Guide provides a single location for all the instructional tutorials for that Unit. It is a great resource for you to find all the concepts you need to learn for the Challenges and the Milestone.

SOPHIA AND DEVMOUNTAIN

DEVMOUNTAIN: Devmountain was founded in 2013 by professionals who had their lives dramatically changed through learning tech skills, and who wanted to give back to the community by sharing what they had learned with others. We've grown a lot since our first course—taught in a single classroom in an old candy factory—to the present day, as part of Strayer University, with campuses across multiple states. With our students, we are providing the experiences that have already changed thousands of lives.

We currently offer bootcamp training—courses mostly taught in about three months and available online—in web development, iOS development, user-experience design, and software quality assurance. Curriculum is hands-on, project based, and designed by people with real-world, industry knowledge. The format for the actual bootcamp courses is different than the multiple choice question experience on the Sophia platform, it is delivered through live instruction with peer collaboration and 1:1 support. Our courses are intended to take people with little experience and give them the skills and tools needed to apply for entry-level, in-field positions.

https://devmountain.com/

HACKBRIGHT ACADEMY: Hackbright Academy was founded in 2012 with a single purpose — to give women of diverse backgrounds the power and skills to build a long and successful career in the tech industry. Our empowering environment allows students to master the skills and knowledge they need to begin a new career in tech. We partner with like-minded organizations and companies so that our impact has the farthest possible reach and remain committed to the continued growth in the communities we serve.

https://hackbrightacademy.com

POWERED BY SOPHIA: This course is part of the broader Sophia non degree portfolio. When Devmountain started to look for a Learning Management System to deliver these pre-bootcamp series courses, Sophia stood head and shoulders above the rest. Sophia's intuitive interface makes even the most novice learners comfortable right away. Devmountain chose Sophia's platform because it supports competency-based learning by offering multiple tutorials to understand the material, multiple attempts to check your learning, the ability to return to questions or tutorials whenever you want and a clean, easy way to track your progress.

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