Brian Cassidy

Prof. M. Tirrito

CMP 263-26164

3 February 2025

Web Development Career Report

As a beginner in the web development field with little knowledge about the industry, it will be beneficial for me to do research into the potential careers within the field. Researching the career paths in web development will give me a better understanding of what to expect from a career within this field of work. As I learn about the various pathways a web development career can take, I will note the job responsibilities as well as qualifications needed to fit the role. With this information, I will then compare and contrast which jobs within the web development field may suit me best. I will take into account my current skill set as well as any new skills I aim to learn in the future. From this research I hope to devise one or two careers I would enjoy pursuing and the qualifications I will need to do so.

THE BASIC SOFT SKILLS

Across all the careers I am researching, each of them have similar expectations of basic professional soft skills. These skills include communication, critical thinking, creative problem solving, being detail-oriented, time management skills, teamwork, and lastly flexibility/adaptability (Broderick). Each of these soft skills will be needed regardless of which career path one decides to go down in web development. Therefore, it is best to identify these skills early on and take note which of these skills I may need to work on.

 As I reflect, I noticed two areas that I can further improve my skills in: 1) my communication skills, and 2) my time management skills. Through developing stronger aptitudes in these areas I will become a more robust collaborator, and more efficient in my work. Using these soft skills as a springboard, I can begin to network and leverage my qualifications in the real world setting.

TYPES OF WEB DEVELOPERS

 Based on my research, there are three main types of web developers. These consist of a front-end developer, back-end developer, and a full-stack developer. A front-end developer is often described as dealing with the client-side of development. This refers to the UI (user interface) and UX (user experience) of a website or application (General Assembly). A front-end developer, in layman's terms, develops the parts of a website/application that a user sees and interacts with. Some other responsibilities of a front-end developer may also be to ensure the website/app can work on different devices and various browsers.

 Conversely, a back-end developer focuses on the behind-the-scenes processes of running a website/application that the user is often entirely unaware of. Back-end developers are tasked with making sure a website/app stays functioning and performing smoothly for the users. They are in charge of databases and how a website stores, retrieves, and manipulates user data and information (Coursera Staff). Back-end developers are also tasked with keeping this data secure. Some other responsibilities can be troubleshooting and debugging, as well as performance tests for the website/application.

Tying both of these professions together gives you the responsibilities of a full-stack developer.

CAREERS IN WEB DEVELOPMENT

Besides the 3 main types of developers mentioned above, there are other jobs within web development that branch off into more specific roles, such as web designer, web analyst, UX/UI designer, webmaster, and SEO specialist. I will now provide a brief description of each job and their expected responsibilities. A web designer, similar to a front-end developer, would be responsible for the design of a website/app but requires less technical knowledge of how to code it. That would be done by the developer. A web analyst leverages data analytics in order to identify user behaviors and trends. Their goal is to use this data to improve the user's experience as well as increase user retention (Yee). The role of a UX designer is to ensure the user's experience on the website/app is simple and easy to understand. Their primary goal is to make the website/app as intuitive as possible for a new user to navigate with ease (Yee). The job of a webmaster is to maintain, manage, and approve the content of a website/application. They are in charge of what the content of the website is (Indeed Editorial Team. "18 Jobs You Can Do…"). An SEO specialist is tasked with optimizing a website's visibility ranking when searched for on a search engine. Keywords, titles, and tags are one of the common strategies used in SEO to increase a website's traffic (Indeed Editorial Team. "What Is an SEO Specialist?). After learning more about each of these careers, I can reflect on the skills I currently have and see which careers may fit me best.

In my research I found effective communication between designers and developers was usually a top concern for teams. With my current degree, a BFA in graphic design, I can combine my current knowledge and skills in design with the skills I plan to learn in my web development courses. I can then leverage my skills in both avenues to be a more effective communicator when discussing design and development. I can use my knowledge in both disciplines to bridge the gap in communication between the two fields.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

According to my research, a degree isn't necessary for entry-level positions in web development. However, it is recommended to get an associates or a bachelors in computer science or a related field in order to give yourself a greater chance for career advancement (Wilfong). Based on data from bestcolleges.com nearly 50% of programmers hold a bachelors degree and 26% of professionals hold a master's.

As for experience needed, this will differ from job to job. However, according to my research, based on job postings from Linkedin, an entry level position for a developer is often required to have some form of degree or certification, as well as roughly a year of experience coding HTML, CSS, and/or Java. They may also expect you to have an understanding of API's, Javascript frameworks, and CSS frameworks. A lot of other specifications can vary widely depending on the company and scope of the work, but these were the most consistent requirements across most of the job postings that I saw.

CONCLUSION

  Based on my background, I think a role as a front-end developer or UI/UX designer could potentially suit me well. I am familiar with UI and UX principles as well as the research that goes hand-in-hand with it. I have tangential experience with designing and creating app wireframes and prototypes through the use of the program Figma. With my prior knowledge and experience as a graphic designer, I believe I can combine my skills in both areas to be an effective front-end developer or UI/UX designer.

Works Cited

Broderick, Thomas. "Web Development Careers." *BestColleges.com*, 12 July 2024,

www.bestcolleges.com/careers/technology/web-development.

Coursera Staff. "What Does a Back-End Developer Do?" *Coursera*, 27 Jan. 2025,

www.coursera.org/articles/back-end-developer.

General Assembly. "What Is Front-End Development? | General Assembly." *General Assembly*,

22 May 2024,

generalassemb.ly/blog/what-is-front-end-web-development/#:~:text=What%20is%20Fro

ntend%20Web%20Development,on%20various%20devices%20and%20browsers.

Indeed Editorial Team. "18 Jobs You Can Do with a Web Design and Development Degree |

Indeed.Com." *Indeed.Com*, 18 Apr. 2024,

www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/do-with-web-design-development-degree.

Indeed Editorial Team. "What Is an SEO Specialist? (With Duties and Salary) | Indeed.Com."

Indeed.Com, 30 July 2024,

www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/what-is-an-seo-specialist.

Wilfong, Sharon. "How to Become a Web Developer." *BestColleges.com*, 28 Sept. 2023,

www.bestcolleges.com/bootcamps/guides/how-to-become-web-developer.

Yee, Sennah. "Web Developer Job Titles and What They Mean." *Web Developer Job Titles and*

What They Mean | Juno College, Juno College,

junocollege.com/blog/popular-web-developer-job-titles-and-what-they-mean/. Accessed 29 Jan.

2025.