

Web Developer

Build the websites and web apps people actually use. The tech job with the shortest distance between learning something and being paid for it.

TYPICAL PAY

\$92,650

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$48k to \$162k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Software companies, agencies, in-house teams at any business, f...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Start now. HTML and CSS in a weekend, then JavaScript. You need a laptop and nothing else.
- 2 Build real things** 6 to 18 months
 Not tutorials. Something with a purpose that you put on the internet where people can use it and break it.
- 3 Decide on a degree** 0 to 4 years
 About 46% of people in this job hold a bachelor's degree, 17% an associate degree and 17% a certificate. A degree opens doors at big employers and is optional everywhere else.
- 4 Get the first job** 3 to 12 months of applying
 Junior developer, agency, internship or a registered tech apprenticeship. Expect a technical interview where you write code in front of someone.
- 5 Specialize** Year 2 onward
 Front end, back end, full stack, performance, accessibility or security. Depth is what moves your pay after year three.

Pros and cons

- + You can start learning today with a laptop and no money
- + No degree required, and the field is projected to grow fast
- + Remote work is normal, so the job is not tied to a city
- Getting the first job is genuinely hard and the rejections pile up
- The tools change constantly and you never stop learning
- Long hours at a screen, which is hard on eyes, wrists and back

Good to know

It is a small job title doing a huge amount of work

About 86,000 people are employed as web developers in the United States, with roughly 5,400 openings projected a year and growth well above average through 2034. Plenty of people who build websites ar...

Under half have a bachelor's degree

Of people working as web developers, about 46% hold a bachelor's degree, 17% an associate degree and 17% a certificate after high school. The federal profile says plainly that employers often value pr...

Optional boosts

React and TypeScript. Back end and databases. Cloud platforms. Accessibility.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Web Developers (15-1254.00)
 O*NET OnLine: Web Developers, tools, education and outlook
 World Wide Web Consortium, which writes the web standards
 Western Governors University: online software engineering degree and costs

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/web-developer>



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