



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Frequently Asked Questions

Data Academy edX Pilot Program

“Do I have to pay to take a class through edX?”

- Please don't pay for anything out of your pocket, as we will not be able to reimburse you. If you are selected to participate in this pilot program, Data Academy will provide you with a prepaid code to sign up and you will receive a certificate of completion if you finish the course before September 30, 2019.
- If you are not accepted into the Data Academy Pilot Program, you can still audit any edX course for free (though you won't receive a certificate of completion unless you pay for the course).

“When can I start my course?”

- If accepted, we will make the course available to you on August 1st and you will have until September 30th to complete the course.

“Can I do this during work hours?”

- There are three options for these courses: you can get supervisor approval to take this course during work hours (as a professional development training opportunity), you can take this course outside of work hours, or you can do a combination of the two. That will be a conversation between you and your supervisor. Either way, what's most important is that you formulate a plan to finish the course by September 30th.

“Can I audit a course?”

- You can choose to audit any course on the edX website for free. However, you will not receive a certificate of completion if you audit a course.

“Can I take a course not on the course list?”

- Since this is only a pilot program, we've decided to limit the course selection to the curated list found on the [Data Academy edX Pilot Program application](#). We've included space for applicants to note classes they are interested in but are not on our curated list

on the application. Please tell us in the application which courses you are interested in taking and, if this pilot is successful, we might offer it next time.

- Again, anyone, at any time, may audit edX courses for free.

“Can I take more than 1 course?”

- Since this is a pilot program, we are limiting students to one course. Please apply to one course you would like to take this time and tell us about the others you are interested in on the application. If this pilot is successful, you might be able to take the others next time!

“What if I only apply to 1 course and it gets full?”

- EdX does not limit how many students can take a class, the seats are unlimited. Please fill out the [Data Academy edX Pilot Program Application](#) and select the course you most want to take. If you are accepted into the pilot program, you will be enrolled in your choice!

“Can I suggest a course?”

- Yes! Please do. We’ve included space for applicants to note classes they are interested in but are not on our curated list on the application. Please tell us which courses you are interested in taking and, if this pilot is successful, we might offer it next time.

“What if the course I apply for is full? Will my application be denied?”

- EdX does not limit how many students can take a class, the seats are unlimited. Your application will only be rated on the factors listed on the application: your reason for taking the course, supervisory support, your plan for course completion, and (potentially) your department.

“My colleagues and I want to take the same class, will we all be accepted into the pilot program?”

- Everyone who wants to take a course should apply! We can’t guarantee everyone a spot, but it is likely most who apply will be accepted into the program. The course you sign up for will not impact selection – so you can all feel free to sign up for the same course.

“The class already begun! Will that affect me?”

- All of the courses we have selected for this pilot program are fully online and self-paced. EdX allows students to enroll well after they make the course available online so you don’t have to worry about missing a course. Please fill out the [Data Academy edX Pilot Program](#) application and select the course from our curated list you would like to enroll in. If accepted, we will make the course available to you on August 1st and you will have until September 30th to complete the course.

“Are courses being offered on a first-come-first-served basis?”

- All applications received before the July 24th deadline will be reviewed. Please fill out the [Data Academy edX Pilot Program Application](#) and select the course you most want to take. If you are accepted into the pilot program, you will be enrolled in your choice!

“Why are most of the courses taught by men (specifically white men)?”

- Great question! We were also disappointed in the diversity of instructors available for these courses (on edX and other online providers). We will continue to push for a more diverse set of instructors in future iterations of this program. We will also continue to pass this feedback up to edX to emphasize how important this is to potential users.