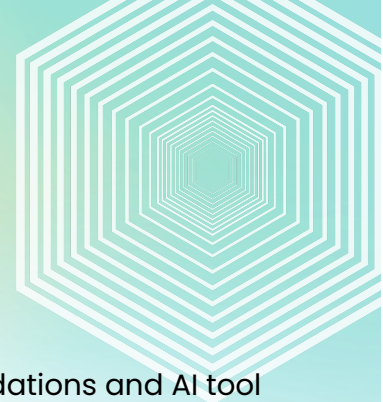




AI201 Readiness Assessment

Candidate Guide



The AI201 Readiness Assessment verifies that you have the programming foundations and AI tool fluency needed to succeed in the course. Specifically, you'll demonstrate your ability to:

- Solve algorithmic problems using data structures, loops, and functions.
- Apply computational reasoning to multi-step problems.
- Write clear, structured prompts that direct an AI tool to produce specific, well-formatted outputs.
- Anticipate edge cases and handle ambiguity in prompt design.

Assessment Overview

- **Platform:** HackerRank
When logging in with HackerRank, please ensure that you use the same email address as the one used for your CodePath application. This will enable us to track your submission effectively. HackerRank will notify us upon your completion of the assessment. Failure to adhere to this requirement may lead to the rejection of your application.
- **Format:** 90 minutes (120 minutes maximum)
- **Structure:**
 - 1 coding challenge, 50 points (partial credit available)
 - 1 AI prompting challenge, 50 points (partial credit available)
- **Languages:** Python or Java (for the coding question only)
- **Total Points:** 100
- **Passing Threshold:** 60% overall
- **Outcomes:**
 - Ready – Admitted to AI201
 - Not Yet Ready – Advised by Codepath on placement options

Example Question Formats

Coding Example

You are given an array of integers. The "imbalance" of the array is defined as the sum of absolute differences between all adjacent pairs.

You may remove exactly one element from the array. Determine the minimum possible imbalance after removing one element from the array.

- Input: [4, 1, 6, 3, 8]
- Output: 10
- Explanation: Removing 6 gives [4, 1, 3, 8] with imbalance $|4-1| + |1-3| + |3-8| = 3 + 2 + 5 = 10$

Prompting Example

You are given transcripts of customer voicemails requesting a booking at a hair salon.

Write a system prompt that directs an AI tool to extract the customer name, preferred date and time, and contact number from each transcript and return results as a standardized reservation record.

- Input:
 - "Hi, this is Jordan calling — I'd love to book an appointment on May 14th around 2pm if possible. You can reach me at 555-0192. Thanks!"
- Output:
 - Name: Jordan
 - Date: 05/14
 - Time: 2:00 PM
 - Contact: 555-0192



Before You Begin

- Ensure a stable internet connection and a functioning browser.
- Review Python or Java basics (loops, lists, strings, functions, classes).
- Practice writing detailed, explicit prompts.
 - Tip: Think about format requirements, edge cases, and exact output structure.
- Find a quiet environment with at least 90 uninterrupted minutes.
- Try a few short HackerRank-style problems to get comfortable.

Tips for Success

- Read each prompt carefully.
- For the coding challenge, test your logic with small examples first.
- Aim for clarity over cleverness.
- For the prompting challenge, try thinking about what could go wrong.
- Partial credit is available on both sections when your submission passes some test cases but not all.
- Manage your time! Don't get stuck on one question.



Frequently Asked Questions

These are some of the most common questions students have before taking the assessment. Reviewing them now can help you avoid simple tech hiccups or surprises once you begin.

Q: Can I choose my programming language?

Yes — for the coding question only. You can select Python or Java when you open the coding tasks.

Q: What if I accidentally choose the wrong language on a coding question?

You can switch the language at the top of the coding window before you start typing your solution. Once you've written or submitted code, avoid switching again — it may clear your work.

Q: Can I pause or restart the assessment?

No. The timer runs continuously once you begin. Plan for a full 90-minute block with a reliable internet connection before starting.

Q: What if my internet disconnects or my browser closes accidentally?

If you refresh or reopen the same link right away, the timer continues from when you started the assessment. It will **not** resume where you left off.

If this happens and you feel that it will affect your ability to complete the assessment within the remaining time, please reach out to admissions@codepath.org as soon as possible.

Q: Can I use AI tools (like ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, or Gemini)?

Not for this assessment. We're checking your current programming and prompting skills – how you reason through problems on your own. You'll spend plenty of time using and evaluating AI tools once the course starts!

Q: What if I accidentally submit incomplete work?

You can re-run or re-submit individual problems within the time limit. Only your latest submission is graded for each problem.

Q: Will I see my score right away?

No. You'll receive an email indicating your placement outcome no later than 7 business days after completing your assessment.

Q: Can I retake the assessment if I don't pass?

Currently, retakes are not offered this term.

Q: How is my coding question evaluated?

Your code is automatically tested against several examples and hidden cases. Partial credit is given for partially correct solutions.

Q: How is the prompting question graded?

Your prompt is run automatically against several test cases. Partial credit is given for partially correct solutions. Aim for specificity: explicit output formatting, edge case handling, and clear instructions tend to score better than short or vague prompts.

Q: Do I need to install anything beforehand?

No installation is required. The assessment runs fully online in your web browser.