



AI301 Readiness Assessment

Candidate Guide



The AI301 Readiness Assessment verifies that you have the technical foundations needed to contribute to live, production open source software in this course. Specifically, you'll demonstrate your ability to:

- Navigate and reason about an unfamiliar production codebase.
- Debug a real application issue using AI tools and systematic investigation.
- Write detailed, 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 app debugging challenge, 50 points (partial credit available)
 - 1 AI prompting challenge, 75 points (partial credit available)
- **AI Tools:** Permitted for Question 1 only.
- **Total Points:** 125
- **Passing Threshold:** 60% overall
- **Outcomes:**
 - Ready – Admitted to AI301
 - Not Yet Ready – Advised by Codepath on placement options

Example Question Formats

App Debugging Question

AI assistance:  Allowed

You will be given:

- A codebase for a financial web application that uses an Angular (TypeScript) frontend and a Spring Boot (Java) backend.
- A description of a bug.
- A description of the expected behavior.

Your task will be to identify and fix the issue. Test cases are provided to confirm your solution, and partial credit is available.

Note: You are not expected to be independently proficient in these languages. Use AI tools freely — including copying and pasting code — to navigate the codebase and implement your fix.

Before You Begin

- Use Chrome with browser extensions disabled.
- Disconnect from your VPN if you are using one.
- Close unnecessary tabs to free up memory.
- Ensure a stable internet connection and a functioning browser.
- Find a quiet environment with at least 90 uninterrupted minutes.

Note: For Question 1, the debugging environment may take up to 60 seconds to load. If it has not loaded after 2–3 minutes, try refreshing once before continuing. Try running the test cases to see if your environment has loaded correctly.

Prompting Example

AI assistance:  NOT Allowed

You are given transcripts of customer voicemails reporting issues with their delivery order.

Write a system prompt that directs an AI tool to extract key data in the format matching the example.

Callback times must include a specific date — with both a month and a day — and a time. Relative references like "tomorrow" or "next Friday," or partial dates like "the 23rd," should be flagged as **INVALID**.

- Input:
 - "Hey, it's Marcus — order 8842. My package showed up damaged. Can someone call me back Friday the 23rd after 3pm?"
- Output:
 - Name: Marcus
 - Order: 8842
 - Issue: Damaged package
 - Callback: INVALID

Tips for Success

- Read each prompt carefully.
- Run the test cases frequently to see how your solution is performing — There is no penalty for running the tests, and only your most recent submission will count.
- For Question 1, use your AI tool to explore the codebase, but own your understanding of the fix.
- For Question 2, try thinking about what could go wrong.
- Partial credit is available on both questions.
- 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 use AI tools (like ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, or Gemini)?

Only for Question 1 (App Debugging). AI tools are not permitted for Question 2 (AI Prompting). Instructions are also shown at the start of each question.

Q: Why are AI tools allowed on the debugging question?

AI301 students work with AI assistants throughout the course to navigate and contribute to real open source codebases. The debugging question reflects that reality — it assesses whether you can use AI tools effectively as part of your problem-solving process.

Q: What if I've never worked in the languages the debugging question uses?

That's expected and okay. The debugging question uses an Angular (TypeScript) frontend and a Spring Boot (Java) backend, but you are not being assessed on your ability to write code independently in these languages. Your task is to use AI tools to navigate the codebase, understand what's going wrong, and implement a fix — the same way you would approach an unfamiliar open source project in AI301.

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: 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 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.