Holberton

Who are we :

Holberton School was born in San Francisco in 2016. This was our first school and the first coding school in the world to implement the income share agreement. The income share agreement model was a financial tool for any student to be able to join the school without any financial requirement. The student pays the scholarship only if he/she gets a job, in the tech field and with a minimum salary.

We were the first post secondary education school to link the success of the students and the success of the school. If the student gets a very well paid job the school gets paid. If not, the school doesn't get paid. This was a revolution in the United States of America where the student debt was and is still insanely growing, putting people at risk as soon as they start their adult life.

Holberton School has been founded by two French people, software engineers themselves, with all the background, knowledge and previous experience in tech in big Silicon Valley companies like Linkedin, Docker.

Holberton School is now one of the biggest networks of schools in the World and the only one with the track record and endorsement from Silicon Valley.

With 33 opened schools, 9 more coming by the end of 2024, thousands of students connected all together and working on the same curriculum. Hundreds of Alumnus from the San Francisco campus are currently working in all types of companies in California or over the World. Our way of teaching and our content has been validated by the most prestigious and selective companies.

Florian Bucher the current CEO is also a software engineer from EPITECH in France and the co-founder of School 42 in 2013. Before co-fouding School 42 he was the CTO of the biggest private education group in France, IONIS. A group with more than 15 000 students in France.

With a 14 years background in Education and specifically in Coding School as CTO, COO, Deputy CEO and CEO now.

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Why Holberton :

TRAINING SILICON VALLEY CALIBER ENGINEERS

Silicon Valley is arguably where the best tech companies are: Google, Apple, Facebook, LinkedIn started and are thriving here. Best companies, means the best talent but also a very high bar to entry. Only the best software Engineers can pretend to do these types of jobs.

Holberton curriculum is training students who end up working at Silicon Valley's best companies like Tesla, NASA, Apple, LinkedIn… It has been designed by Holberton School in collaboration with more than 100 mentors who are professionals working for Silicon Valley companies including Google, Youtube, IBM, SalesForce, Dropbox… By doing so, we make sure that our curriculum is constantly training students on the latest technologies and concepts that are the most relevant to the Tech industry. When it takes years for classic universities to implement a new curriculum, Holberton can do it in matters of days. We still have employees sharing their time between Holberton and companies like Google. By doing this we also ensure that our tools and projects are aligned with what is done in real life.

TRAINED TO SUCCEED IN THE WORKFORCE, NOT EXAMS

Universities are training students to succeed for exams, not for the workforce. Companies have to retrain them so that they can actually be productive, this can take from several weeks to months. Our students are trained to be operational from day 0 and have the fundamental knowledge and skill to grow in their career. We are not another Bootcamp; we train people able to reskill and grow by themselves post Holberton.

Our project-based and peer-learning based methodology are mimicking the working environment. Students are becoming Software Engineers by working on projects and collaborating with their peers, which is what is happening in the company environment. The curriculum is designed to train students who have no prior knowledge of Software Engineering. Our project's complexity is increasingly hard and reaches industry level difficulty.

Regular education is based on passive learning where students are educated for the industrial era. Regular classrooms look like assembly lines in a factory: students have to arrive on the clock, sitting in line, waiting to be told what to do, and forbidden from speaking with their peers. Our methodology is based on active learning, leading students to be creative, problem solvers and team players.

EMPLOYABLE TODAY AND TOMORROW

Holberton active learning curriculum is leading students to become life-long self-learners. While regular education gives students the solution first via lectures and then the problem with exams, Holberton flips the coin. Students are given projects and minimal guidance to get started, then it's up to them to acquire the required knowledge and learn tools needed to achieve the tasks. By doing so, students are learning to learn, a skill that they can use all along their career to continue to grow as a professional.

Students trained the classic way, with a passive learning approach, are used to being fed knowledge by teachers and we all know that companies do not have teachers and lectures to train their workers.

MORE THAN JUST SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

Holberton curriculum is also focusing on developing student's soft skills. Effective communication and collaboration are at the center of successful teams and businesses. Great Software Engineers should be able to communicate well by writing: comment code, documentation, technical blog post or even post-mortem. They should also have verbal communication skills: public speaking, coaching, asking the right questions. Making Holberton graduates great team players in their first jobs and great leaders in the rest of their career.

AN EDUCATION TRAINING THE ELITE BUT NOT RESERVED TO AN ELITE

The best schools only give a chance to the best students. Students who are thriving in passive learning environments and who have a chance to access high-quality education from a young age. But everyone knows that only a fraction of the population has this chance.

Holberton School has a unique application process that is not selecting students based on their past achievements or social status, but rather on their profile and raw talent.

Holberton students from all walks of life, some are just graduating from high-school, some others have non-computer science bachelor, master or Ph.D... Some of our students used to be cashiers, baristas, artists, teachers, fruit pickers... They have been failed by the education system, after Holberton, they end up working at jobs that are usually only accessed by US best universities graduates.

Project-Based Learning

Project-based learning is an alternative teaching methodology to the traditional paper-based, mechanical memorization and teacher-led classroom and results in a greater depth of understanding concepts, a broader knowledge base, improved communication and interpersonal/social skills, enhanced leadership skills, and increased creativity. It gives students the opportunity to explore problems and challenges that have real-world applications, increasing their long-term retention of skills and concepts. Rather than just teaching our students a lot of theory and having them only occasionally apply a fraction of it through a class project, we do the exact opposite. We give our students increasingly difficult programming challenges to solve, with minimal initial directions on how to solve them. As a result, students naturally learn to look for the theory and tools they need, how to understand them and use them, and how to work together and help each other.

This is the way we learn everything as a human being. Nobody told us how to walk, nobody told us how the human body works, a long time ago. Humans are creative by nature and have always faced challenges by a try and failed approach. This path is the only one where you have to construct, deconstruct, analyze, create your own set of knowledge, tools, skills and iterate until you face the challenge. That's the way we train students at Holberton and the only efficient way to have real life problem solvers and innovative people.

The project-based learning approach represents what happens in the real world. When you are a software or operations engineer, your job is about completing projects and solving problems. You have to collaborate with your colleagues - and not only other engineers - and search for the information and tools that will permit you to accomplish your objective.

As a result, graduates of Holberton School are better prepared to work in the tech industry, and prepared to learn absolutely anything quickly, ensuring their adaptability through the quickly-evolving technology.

Holberton's methodology takes inspiration from "progressive education", a pedagogical movement that began in the late nineteenth century. With a strong emphasis on learning by doing via hands-on projects, students develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills. Peer learning is an educational practice in which students interact with their fellow students to reach their educational goals. Coupled with project-based learning, it allows Holberton students to unleash their creativity and naturally learn how to solve practical challenges by working as a team. Florian Bucher has been part of this movement since 2009 and has been involved in multiple successful software engineering schools around the world Educated 30,000+ students over the last 15 years.

At Holberton School, each student helps all other students, and most of the projects are collaborative. We encourage our students to share their knowledge and to help each other. When a student successfully explains a concept to another student, everyone wins-- the student receiving the explanation wins as it's been proven that abstract concepts are better understood when explained by peers; and the student performing the explanation also wins, as this is the best way to achieve knowledge consolidation.

CREATIVE AND EXCITED LEARNING

Software engineering is a creative and exciting journey, and that's what our students experience at Holberton School. The combination of project-based learning and peer learning makes Holberton School more engaging for students; they are always working hands-on, focusing on building actual applications and solving modern day challenges.

LEARN HOW TO LEARN

As the world rapidly changes, our focus is not to teach our students specific programming languages, frameworks or tools, because nobody can predict what they will need to know tomorrow. Instead, Holberton School teaches problem solving. Students learn what they need to in order to accomplish an objective. They learn to find solutions to problems using both offline and online resources, as well as imagination, creativity and communication. At Holberton School, students become thinkers, innovators, not information processors.

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