



Students who enroll for SLAI CS are expected to have some previous experience in coding. Experience in nearly any typical programming language is fine. However, block-based languages such as Scratch are not sufficient, nor are markup languages such as HTML or Markdown. Examples of common languages that people have successfully had experience with before enrolling at SLAI are Python, C, C++, Java, Scheme, Processing, and Javascript, though others suffice.

Prerequisite: Students' expertise in programming should be at a level where they can successfully write code using loops, conditionals ("if"), lists or arrays, and functions to solve specified tasks. They should be able to do so without assistance from AI tools.

Assess if you are prepared to apply using the criteria below. **If you have questions about your experience, please email summer@carleton.edu.**



This prerequisite is commonly achieved via successful completion of:

- Advanced Placement CS A
- International Baccalaureate CS HL
- High school introductory programming course that:
 - Focuses on programming in one of the languages mentioned above or a similar one, and
 - Requires students to practice coding as specified in the prerequisite



This prerequisite is typically not achieved via courses such as:

- AP CS Principles / IB CS SL: Often use block-based languages (like Scratch) or lack the required coding depth.
- Basic Web Development Courses: Often over-emphasize insufficient languages like HTML. They may only work if there is sufficient, independent experience with Javascript or server-side languages.
- Courses Allowing Excessive Copying/AI Use: Courses that permit students to rely on copying or AI tools to complete most work do not foster genuine coding experience.



This prerequisite might or might not be achieved via:

- Extra-curriculars such as clubs, summer programs, etc.
- Self-teaching via Khan Academy/Udemy/etc.

These activities often do not provide sufficient experience. The key issue is whether or not the student can satisfy the prerequisite with their coding skills.

(Note: Purely self-taught experience rarely satisfies criteria.)