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The Futures Initiative
Advancing Equity and Innovation in Higher Education

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What are three things you work to accomplish in the classroom?

- Learning goals…
- Pedagogical methods…
- Course objectives…
- Transferrable skills…
Visualization of integrated site structure of CBOX
Welcome

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Django Hack Night

# What is Django?

Django is an open source web application framework based on Python. A web application framework is a series of programs that help people write web services. A web service is a remote-located website that has an idea of who the user is. What is the difference between that and a website that I make through the CUNY Academic Commons or a CMS installation like the CUNY Futures Initiative. Well, the Academic Commons is Wordpress installation. You are restricted to Wordpress plugins and themes. Everything is stored in their database. Now it is a lot easier and quicker to build a website on the commons than in Python.

Django is a lower level experience. With that, you trade a certain amount of ease for the ability to deploy where you like and easily customize it to your needs. If you need a custom website that can handle uploading of PDFs, no problem!

# What is special about the Python community?

The Python community is one of the most welcoming and diverse of all the open source communities (see this article). It is no secret that the free and open source worlds have lagged in terms of diversity. To quote one statistic: “only 11% of professional programmers identify as women, in free software that number is less than 9%.” (taken from [womeninfsf.org](http://womeninfsf.org) in free software Python to its credit has made diversity a priority. It often

Tags

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Commons In A Box is a suite of WordPress and BuddyPress plugins and themes for community communication and collaboration, put into a single package that is easy to install, customize, and maintain.

This software is a project by the CUNY Academic Commons of the City University of New York and sponsored by a grant from the CUNY Research Foundation.
Ability to use Groups and / or Course Websites
Are Charter Schools Charting the Right Course to Educational Equality?

"You can be anything you want to be," is a common anecdote many parents tell their children as they tuck them into bed, hopeful that they mature into accomplished and fulfilled individuals. In order for their children to succeed, as most parents know, a proper elementary and high school education is the first step towards securing their child's future. However, as educational inequality between minority and white students increases, charter schools have promoted themselves as the answer to decreasing these disparities in achievement levels. Charter schools, publicly funded but privately governed institutions, utilize specialized classes and innovative teaching models to provide children with a higher quality education. Although students in these schools may raise their own performance levels, how are inner city charter schools perpetuating the problem of educational inequality?

Charter schools began as a way to increase academic proficiency among minority students, as children of poor ethnic backgrounds...
Student project, available at: http://futures.gc.cuny.edu/education/
Final map projects available at: http://futures.gc.cuny.edu/maps/
MEETING THEIR NEEDS: COLLEGE 101

I am excited to say that it is finally that time of year again! The thought of college can be intimidating, especially for our entry level students who are adjusting to the very notion of being a college student. As Futures Initiative Mentors, we will work towards encouraging our mentees in distress. We will do this simply by informing them of what to expect for the year, what their resources are on and off campus, and what our mentees themselves can make out of their college experience. With this, we are able to establish a solid ground of security for our mentees.

Here are some examples of how we, as Futures Initiative Mentors, can meet their needs in this informal guide. I would like to call, concisely, “College 101.” (please feel free to add more to the list)

- **Planning ahead of time:** As soon as our mentees receive their schedule or their syllabus, it is important to help them plan and manage their time. We can have our mentees mark exam dates on a calendar or even help them make crucial textbook purchases ahead of time (when a textbook becomes vital to a course). A great application program I suggest called MyStudyLife would make a wonderful platform for our mentees to read the book as well and organize their agenda, digitally. Best of all, the application is free to use.

- **Choosing your seat wisely:** Entering the classroom is the easy part, but finding a seat is the difficult part. In college, there is no "assigned" seating but there is an "unassigned but assigned by yourself seating" for lack of a better term. Unbelievably, where you sit in a classroom says a lot about you and this can be an interesting topic to discuss with our mentees. For example, sitting in the front of the classrooms suggests one is more willing to learn and wants to be in arms reach of the professor, as for the opposite case of sitting in the back of the room to "avoid" being a part of the classroom. However, this is not always true.
Private and Public Groups
Sites can also have levels of privacy
In a 2013 study, Becker, Bonadie-Joseph, and Cain found that among students in the CUNY system, three quarters of respondents reported using mobile devices to access library resources.
Responsive and Accessible Design