

REALM FORGE ACADEMY

THE WORLD FORGE PATHWAY

Official Program Guide

Build Worlds. Not Debt.

A two-year, self-paced learning pathway that transforms creative thinkers into World Forgers — equipped to launch careers in gaming, VR, animation, film, tabletop design, publishing, and the metaverse.

10 Courses	33 Pathway Credits	Self Paced	\$0 Student Debt
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realmforgeacademy.com

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Program Overview

What Is the World Forge Pathway?

The World Forge Pathway is a comprehensive, self-paced educational journey designed for creative thinkers, dreamers, and builders ages 16 and up. Over the course of 10 carefully sequenced courses, students develop the knowledge, skills, and creative portfolio needed to launch careers in video game design, virtual reality, animation, film production, tabletop gaming, publishing, and independent creative entrepreneurship.

This is not a coding bootcamp. This is not a traditional college. The World Forge Pathway focuses on what makes great creators great: theory, creativity, ethics, critical thinking, and the ability to build entire worlds from imagination. By the time you complete this pathway, you will have forged a complete realm — including its lore, language, currency, cultures, visual identity, and more — and produced a professional portfolio ready to take anywhere.

Why Theory and Creativity Come First

One of the biggest mistakes aspiring creators make is jumping straight into development tools — downloading game engines, learning to code, watching tutorials — without ever fully designing the world they want to build. They burn out, lose direction, or end up with technically functional projects that have no soul. The World Forge Pathway was designed by instructional designer D.W. Denney after more than 30 years in the multimedia and creative technology industry, and it's built on a hard-won truth: ***the creators who succeed are the ones who know exactly what they're building before they ever touch a tool.***

That's why this pathway spends its first two phases immersed in theory, creativity, ethics, critical thinking, and world-building. By the time you reach the development and production courses, you won't be guessing — you'll be executing a fully realized vision with confidence and purpose. This structure isn't an accident. It's the difference between a creator who finishes and one who doesn't.

Who Is This For?

The World Forge Pathway is built for:

- High school students looking for an alternative to traditional college
- Creative thinkers who learn better by building than by sitting in lectures
- Gamers, artists, writers, and dreamers who want to turn their passion into a profession
- Career changers who want to enter the creative technology space
- Anyone who wants an affordable, debt-free path to a meaningful creative career

What Makes Realm Forge Academy Different?

	Traditional College	Realm Forge Academy
Cost	\$20,000-\$100,000+	Affordable monthly subscription
Debt	Average \$37,000+ in loans	\$0 student debt
Pace	Fixed semester schedule	100% self-paced
Focus	General education + major	Laser-focused on your craft
Outcome	Degree (may not lead to job)	Portfolio + career-ready skills
Learning Style	Lecture halls and textbooks	Build worlds, not boredom
Creative Freedom	Follow the curriculum	Forge your own realm
Live Support	Office hours if you're lucky	Weekly live office hours with the founder

Weekly Live Office Hours

Self-paced doesn't mean alone. Every week, Realm Forge Academy hosts live office hours — web-based and accessible from any device, with optional VR access for students who want the immersive experience. These sessions are hosted by founder D.W. Denney and his protégés, giving you direct access to real-world industry knowledge and mentorship. Ask questions, discuss the week's lessons, and connect with your fellow World Forgers in real time. Attendance is always optional and sessions are scheduled on a published calendar so you can plan ahead.

The World Forge Pathway at a Glance

The pathway is divided into three phases. Each phase builds upon the last, taking students from foundational knowledge to creative mastery and professional-ready output.

PHASE 1: FOUNDATION (Courses 1-3)

Build your knowledge base. Understand the metaverse, AI, and digital finance. Develop the critical thinking, ethical frameworks, and creative foundations that will guide everything you create. Most programs throw students into tools on day one — we start here because the strongest creators are the ones who understand the landscape before they try to reshape it.

Courses: Enter the Metaverse • AI Literacy & Ethics • Cryptocurrency Essentials

PHASE 2: EXPLORATION & CREATION (Courses 4-8)

Start building. Construct the architecture of your realm, explore emerging technologies, take to the skies with drones, master blockchain infrastructure, and design strategic gaming experiences rooted in the world you're creating.

Courses: Realms Beyond Reality • Quantum Computing • Drone Pilots Academy • Blockchain Beyond Crypto • Wargaming Across Realms

PHASE 3: MASTERY & LAUNCH (Courses 9-10)

Bring it all together. Learn the development landscape well enough to lead a project and hire the right talent, then produce every deliverable you need to launch — pitch decks, trailers, brand assets, lore documents, spec packages, and a complete professional portfolio. Graduate as a World Forger ready to make your vision real.

Courses: Forge Ready: Production Strategy & Leadership • Forge Your Vision: The Art of Creative Production (Capstone)

Course Catalog

The following pages detail each course in the World Forge Pathway, including descriptions, learning outcomes, key topics, prerequisites, and estimated duration. All courses are self-paced with instructor support available.

C O U R S E 0 1

Defining a New Reality: Enter the Metaverse

Foundation Course

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-weight: normal;">D U R A T I O N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">8-10 weeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-weight: normal;">L E V E L</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Beginner</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-weight: normal;">C R E D I T S</p> <p style="margin: 0;">3.0 Pathway Credits</p>
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Course Description

Your journey begins here. Explore the foundations of the metaverse — what it is, where it came from, and where it’s going. Through immersive VR field trips, critical analysis, and hands-on exploration, you’ll develop a deep understanding of how virtual worlds are reshaping human interaction, creativity, commerce, and culture.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and articulate the core concepts, history, and evolution of the metaverse
2. Navigate and critically evaluate virtual reality environments and platforms
3. Analyze the social, economic, and cultural implications of immersive digital spaces
4. Assess current metaverse platforms and their real-world applications across industries
5. Develop informed perspectives on the future trajectory of virtual and augmented reality

Key Topics

Metaverse history and evolution, VR/AR/XR technology fundamentals, virtual economy basics, digital identity and avatars, social dynamics in virtual spaces, platform analysis and comparison, immersive field trip experiences

Prerequisites: None — this is your gateway course

C O U R S E 0 2

AI Literacy and Ethics: Navigating the Intelligent Future

Critical Thinking Course

<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">D U R A T I O N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">8-10 weeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">L E V E L</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Beginner</p>	<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">C R E D I T S</p> <p style="margin: 0;">3.0 Pathway Credits</p>
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Course Description

Artificial intelligence is transforming every industry on the planet. This course equips you with the literacy to understand how AI works, the ethics to question how it should be used, and the confidence to work alongside intelligent systems rather than fear them. You'll explore real-world case studies, debate ethical dilemmas, and develop your own framework for responsible AI integration.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

6. Explain fundamental AI and machine learning concepts in accessible terms
7. Evaluate the ethical implications of AI deployment across diverse contexts
8. Analyze bias, fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI systems
9. Develop a personal ethical framework for responsible AI use and advocacy
10. Assess how AI technologies impact employment, creativity, privacy, and society

Key Topics

Machine learning fundamentals, neural networks and deep learning concepts, AI bias and fairness, generative AI and creative tools, AI in healthcare, education, and entertainment, privacy and surveillance, the future of human-AI collaboration

Prerequisites: Previous course

C O U R S E 0 3

Cryptocurrency Essentials: Navigating Digital Finance with Confidence

Digital Finance Literacy Course

DURATION 6-8 weeks	LEVEL Beginner	CREDITS 2.0 Pathway Credits
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Course Description

Cryptocurrency is more than Bitcoin headlines — it’s a fundamental shift in how value, trust, and transactions work in a digital world. This course gives you the knowledge to understand digital currencies, evaluate their potential, and navigate the space with confidence and critical thinking rather than hype or fear.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

11. Explain the mechanics of blockchain technology and how cryptocurrencies function
12. Analyze the economic principles underlying digital currencies and tokenomics
13. Evaluate cryptocurrency projects critically using fundamental analysis
14. Navigate digital wallets, exchanges, and basic security practices safely
15. Assess the regulatory landscape and societal implications of decentralized finance

Key Topics

Blockchain mechanics, Bitcoin and Ethereum fundamentals, tokenomics, wallets and security, DeFi basics, NFT technology (beyond the hype), regulatory landscape, stablecoins, real-world use cases

Prerequisites: previous course

C O U R S E 0 4

Realms Beyond Reality: Exploring the Architecture of Fantasy Worlds

Creative World-Building Course

<p style="margin: 0; text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">D U R A T I O N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">10-12 weeks</p>	<p style="margin: 0; text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">L E V E L</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Intermediate</p>	<p style="margin: 0; text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">C R E D I T S</p> <p style="margin: 0;">4.0 Pathway Credits</p>
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Course Description

This is where your realm begins to take shape. Dive deep into the art and science of world-building — crafting believable histories, living cultures, functional economies, and rich lore that make fictional worlds feel real. From Tolkien’s Middle-earth to the Star Wars galaxy, you’ll study the masters and then build your own. By the end of this course, you’ll have the foundational architecture of your flagship realm.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

16. Design comprehensive world-building documentation including history, geography, and culture
17. Construct believable political systems, economies, and social structures for fictional worlds
18. Develop original languages, naming conventions, and cultural artifacts
19. Create interconnected lore that supports narrative depth across multiple media formats
20. Apply world-building principles from iconic franchises to original creative work

Key Topics

World-building frameworks and methodologies, history and timeline creation, culture and society design, language construction (conlangs), economic and political systems, geography and ecology, mythology and religion design, character archetypes within worlds

Prerequisites: Previous course

C O U R S E 0 5

Introduction to Quantum Computing

Emerging Technology Course

<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">D U R A T I O N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">6-8 weeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">L E V E L</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Intermediate</p>	<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">C R E D I T S</p> <p style="margin: 0;">2.0 Pathway Credits</p>
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Course Description

Quantum computing represents the next frontier of computational power — and it will reshape everything from cryptography to AI to materials science. This course makes quantum accessible without requiring a physics degree. You’ll understand qubits, superposition, and entanglement through creative analogies, visual models, and thought experiments that connect quantum concepts to the digital worlds you’re building.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

21. Explain quantum computing principles including superposition, entanglement, and quantum gates
22. Compare and contrast classical computing limitations with quantum computing potential
23. Analyze real-world applications of quantum computing across industries
24. Evaluate the implications of quantum computing for cryptography and digital security
25. Articulate how quantum advances may impact metaverse, AI, and blockchain technologies

Key Topics

Quantum mechanics fundamentals (accessible), qubits vs classical bits, quantum gates and circuits, quantum algorithms, quantum cryptography, current quantum hardware, industry applications, quantum’s impact on blockchain and AI

Prerequisites: Previous Course

C O U R S E 0 6

Applied Drone Technology: Mastering the Aerial Perspective

Applied Technology Course

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><small>D U R A T I O N</small></p> <p style="margin: 0;">6-8 weeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><small>L E V E L</small></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Beginner to Intermediate</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><small>C R E D I T S</small></p> <p style="margin: 0;">3.0 Pathway Credits</p>
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Course Description

Take to the skies. This course builds genuine drone technology literacy — covering the science of flight, FAA regulations, airspace and weather, aerial photography and cinematography principles, commercial applications across industries, and your personal roadmap for going deeper. Whether you're exploring drone careers, planning to hire aerial operators for your productions, or expanding your creative vocabulary as a world-builder, this course gives you the foundational understanding to move forward with confidence.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of FAA Part 107 regulations, airspace classifications, and the Remote Pilot Certificate process
2. Explain drone flight principles, flight planning considerations, and operational safety protocols
3. Apply aerial photography and cinematography principles to evaluate and direct aerial content
4. Analyze commercial drone applications across real estate, agriculture, inspection, media, and emerging sectors
5. Develop a portfolio strategy and personalized drone technology roadmap suitable for pursuing further certification, freelance opportunities, or employment

Key Topics

Drone flight physics and aerodynamics, FAA Part 107 regulatory framework, airspace classifications and weather, flight simulation and skill development, aerial photography and cinematography principles, post-production workflows, commercial applications (real estate, agriculture, construction, inspection, mapping, media), drone maintenance and troubleshooting, portfolio strategy and career pathways, Part 107 certification roadmap

Prerequisites: Previous Course

C O U R S E 0 7

Blockchain Beyond Cryptocurrency: Building the Decentralized Future

Advanced Technology Course

DURATION 8-10 weeks	LEVEL Intermediate	CREDITS 3.0 Pathway Credits
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Course Description

You learned the basics of blockchain through crypto — now go deeper. This course explores the vast world of blockchain applications beyond currency: smart contracts, decentralized applications (dApps), DAOs, supply chain verification, digital identity, and the infrastructure powering Web3. Understand how decentralized systems will underpin the metaverse, digital ownership, and the creator economy.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 26. Design and evaluate smart contract logic and decentralized application architectures
- 27. Analyze DAO governance models and their applications in virtual communities
- 28. Assess blockchain solutions for supply chain, identity verification, and digital ownership
- 29. Evaluate Web3 infrastructure and its role in powering metaverse economies
- 30. Develop strategic proposals for blockchain integration in creative and commercial projects

Key Topics

Smart contracts (Solidity concepts), dApp architecture, DAOs and governance, Web3 infrastructure, IPFS and decentralized storage, digital identity and verifiable credentials, supply chain blockchain, interoperability protocols, metaverse economy infrastructure

Prerequisites: Previous Course

C O U R S E 0 8

Mastering the Art of Wargaming Across Realms

Physical Gaming & Strategic Design Course

D U R A T I O N 10-12 weeks	L E V E L Intermediate	C R E D I T S 4.0 Pathway Credits
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Course Description

From Warhammer 40K to custom tabletop campaigns — this course explores the rich tradition of physical wargaming and strategic game design. You’ll study game mechanics, army composition, terrain design, miniature painting and presentation, campaign storytelling, and tournament organization. Most importantly, you’ll design and playtest wargaming systems set within the realm you’ve been building throughout the pathway.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

31. Analyze game mechanics, balance systems, and strategic depth in wargaming designs
32. Design original wargaming rule sets with balanced unit statistics and combat systems
33. Create terrain, miniature presentation standards, and visual storytelling for tabletop play
34. Develop campaign narratives that integrate with broader world-building lore
35. Organize and facilitate playtesting sessions, tournaments, and community gaming events

Key Topics

Wargaming history and culture, game mechanics and probability, unit design and balance, terrain building and battlefield design, miniature painting and presentation, campaign design and narrative, tournament organization, community building, integrating digital and physical gaming experiences

Prerequisites: Previous Course

C O U R S E 0 9

Forge Ready: Production Strategy and Leadership

Strategy & Leadership Course

<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">D U R A T I O N</p> <p style="margin: 0;">10-12 weeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">L E V E L</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Intermediate to Advanced</p>	<p style="text-align: center; letter-spacing: 0.5em; margin: 0;">C R E D I T S</p> <p style="margin: 0;">4.0 Pathway Credits</p>
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Course Description

Here’s a truth that 30 years in the industry has proven again and again: the creators who succeed are rarely the ones who try to do everything themselves. They’re the ones who know enough about the development landscape to lead with confidence. This course gives you technical literacy without demanding you become a developer. You’ll learn how modern games, VR experiences, and metaverse projects are actually built — the tools, the pipelines, the roles, and the costs. You’ll master the art of writing creative briefs, evaluating talent on platforms like Fiverr and Upwork, managing production timelines, and planning a realistic launch strategy. You won’t leave this course expecting to build your flagship project alone — you’ll leave knowing exactly who to hire, what to ask for, and how to lead them.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 36. Evaluate the modern development landscape including game engines, 3D tools, and metaverse platforms
- 37. Write professional creative briefs and technical specifications that communicate vision to developers and artists
- 38. Develop hiring strategies for sourcing, vetting, and managing freelance creative talent
- 39. Build realistic production timelines, budgets, and project management workflows
- 40. Design a comprehensive launch strategy for an independent creative project

Key Topics

Development landscape overview (Unity, Unreal, Godot, Roblox Studio), technical literacy for non-developers, anatomy of a creative brief, sourcing and evaluating freelance talent (Fiverr, Upwork, ArtStation), contract basics and intellectual property protection, production pipeline management, budgeting for indie projects, crowdfunding strategies, launch planning and go-to-market fundamentals, leadership and creative direction

Prerequisites: Previous Course

C O U R S E 1 0

Forge Your Vision: The Art of Creative Production*Capstone Portfolio Course*

DURATION 12-14 weeks	LEVEL Advanced	CREDITS 5.0 Pathway Credits
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Course Description

This is where the forge fires burn hottest. You've spent the entire pathway designing a realm, developing strategic knowledge, and learning how to lead a creative project. Now you produce the materials that bring it all to life. In this capstone course, you'll create a professional pitch deck, a cinematic trailer, cohesive brand assets, publishable lore documents, a detailed spec package, and a complete creative portfolio — the exact deliverables you'll hand to the talent you learned to hire in Course 09. This isn't busywork. These are the real materials that launch real projects. You'll graduate as a World Forger with everything you need to walk into a studio meeting, launch a crowdfunding campaign, or hand a freelancer a brief and say 'build this' with total confidence.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

41. Produce a professional pitch deck that communicates a creative vision to investors, publishers, or collaborators
42. Create cinematic trailers and promotional video content using modern multimedia production tools
43. Design cohesive visual branding including logos, color systems, typography, and style guides
44. Write and format publishable lore documents, character guides, world bibles, and spec packages
45. Assemble a comprehensive, portfolio-ready body of work demonstrating mastery across all pathway disciplines

Key Topics

Pitch deck design and storytelling, video production and editing, motion graphics and trailer creation, graphic design and visual branding, technical writing and lore documentation, spec package creation for developers and artists, portfolio curation and presentation, freelance business basics, intellectual property fundamentals, crowdfunding campaign design, career pathway planning

Prerequisites: All previous courses required

Graduation & Career Outcomes

What You'll Have When You Graduate

Upon completing all 10 courses in the World Forge Pathway, you will have:

- A fully realized realm with complete lore, language, currency, cultures, political systems, and history
- A professional multimedia portfolio including pitch decks, trailers, brand assets, and written lore documents
- Detailed spec packages and creative briefs ready to hand to developers and artists
- A wargaming system designed within your realm, ready for community playtesting
- Drone piloting skills and aerial content for your creative projects
- Deep understanding of AI, blockchain, quantum computing, and emerging technologies
- The strategic knowledge to hire, manage, and lead freelance talent to build your vision
- The title of World Forger — and the materials to prove it

Career Pathways

World Forge Pathway graduates are prepared for careers and creative ventures including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Game Designer / World Builder • VR/AR Experience Designer • Metaverse Environment Creator • Tabletop Game Designer • Indie Game Studio Founder • 3D Environment Artist • Narrative Designer / Lore Writer • Creative Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drone Pilot / Aerial Cinematographer • Multimedia Producer • Content Creator / YouTuber • Community Manager (Gaming/VR) • Blockchain / Web3 Strategist • Animation & Motion Graphics Artist • Technical Writer (Gaming / Tech) • Freelance Creative Entrepreneur
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Start Your Journey

Ready to forge your future? Enrollment in Realm Forge Academy is simple, affordable, and designed to meet you where you are.

How It Works

46. Enroll and begin with Course 01: Enter the Metaverse — your gateway into the pathway
47. Learn at your own pace — no deadlines, no semesters, no pressure
48. Progress through courses in sequence — each course builds on the knowledge and skills from the last
49. Build your realm as you go — each course adds a new dimension to your creation
50. Graduate with a portfolio, a title, and the skills to launch your career

F O R G E Y O U R F U T U R E

Visit realmforgeacademy.com to enroll today

No applications. No entrance exams. No debt.

Just you, your imagination, and the forge.

R E A L M F O R G E A C A D E M Y

Mount Vernon, Washington

realmforgeacademy.com

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