

General Education Reflection

In my four years at Iowa State University I have developed as a Computer Engineer and a person quite a bit. My goals have become more defined as I have explored the different opportunities offered to me as an engineer. My current short term career goal is to secure a position with a software development company and begin my career as a Software Engineer. Academically I would like to start learning some of the programming languages that companies have started using lately, especially web-based languages, as the industry seems to be migrating towards web-based applications. Long term, I'd like a secure software engineering. My core classes gave me the skills to understand and complete the work I will be doing, but my general education classes also helped me develop skills that will help me in my career as an engineer.

One skill that I developed in my general education electives was the ability to work with a group of people to solve a problem. Econ 321 (Economics of Discrimination) required us to work as a group to research a topic and present our findings to the class. The organizational skills and communication required to work as a group is also important when working on a large engineering problem with a group, which happens quite often in class and in the working world. My communication skills were also improved while taking general elective classes. Classes like Hist 341 (History of Latin America II) required me to write a lot of papers, and my ability to accurately get my ideas written down improved. This skill is important in engineering, as proper documentation and communication between engineers is important while working on a problem.

General education electives have also allowed me to see beyond an engineering solution in problem solving and innovation. Economics of Discrimination taught me about how the location and people involved in a project can have a large effect on the outcome. For example, the location of a business can have a huge economic impact on how it performs. Psych 101 taught me about the different ways people think and communicate, which can help tremendously when dealing with people or an entire society when working on a problem.

General education classes have been a nice break from rigorous engineering classes and still helped me learn skills that will help me while solving engineering problems. The ability to look beyond the engineering solution when solving a problem will be very beneficial in the workplace. I look forward to applying these skills when I graduate in May.