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Computer Science

May 6, 2020

**Program Exit Assessment**

**Computer Science, Year 1**

**First reflection: General Learning outcomes**

The general purpose of this program was to teach me how to focus and immerse myself into learning in a computer science environment. In the following paragraphs, I’m going to reflect on 3 of the general learning outcomes that I am supposed to have after my first year.

The most important ability of a college student, in my opinion, is time management. This is something that I’ve been struggling with throughout the first year. Yes, there have been instances where I was able to manage my time well and those end up well, but this was not consistent. That is precisely where I need to work on, consistency. A lot of times, I still have many things that distract me from doing homework. During the second semester, I doubled down on some time management software and it improved my consistency a little bit and it’s still a working process. So, If I were to write about my biggest struggle for first year it would be time management.

Next quality that I’m going to reflect on is teamwork. I haven’t done much teamwork assignments per se, but I did participate in a lot of in-class group studying. Now, for me, I’m more of a type of person who likes to work alone and then do a group reflection, where everyone would correct each other. As the year is approaching to its end, I would say that I’ve done okay with the teamwork part. Sometimes, I did have a lack of communication, which slowed me and my teams progress down. I do have to work on it, as I believe in the idea of having the ability to adapt to any team environment.

Finally, one positive thing about this year that I’m proud of is my success with adapting to changes in industry trends, technology and practices. In many of the Computer Science courses, I was presented to many new practices that I never knew or didn’t know that it could’ve been done that way. At the beginning of the year, I learned about how to do one task in a certain way, but later, when the teacher presented a new and a better way of doing that task I immediately implemented it.

**Second reflection: First-Year Learning Outcomes**

In the following paragraphs I’m going to reflect on some of my first-year learning outcomes.

After completing my Hardware and Operating Systems course in first semester, I can see how I improved in this field. Before joining the program I had a somewhat broad understanding about some types of hardware and computer parts. The labs were the most helpful in teaching me how a technical support analyst should manage cables, know the computer parts, assemble and disassemble a computer etc. To give you an example: I had an assignment to pick computer parts that would be used to build a PC. I did it well, and I think this was a great exercise that would help me later when I get a similar task during my summer coop as a tech support.

Next, recognizing the different roles in Computer Science is important, especially because it’s a very big and broad field, like Science and Philosophy. In my “Business in the workplace” class, I learned about those differences by doing exercises and reading the notes that the teacher provided. I also went further and researched the skillsets of some of them, their job markets and university programs. Hopefully, by the end of this program, I would be able to have the necessary skills to work in each of these fields or at least have the minimum requirements.

Finally, I would like to talk about my programming classes, especially the outcome from them. To be honest, for a first-year student, I think I could’ve done a better with my time management even though I had good marks for both semesters. In the end, I acquired an important concept of how every program is made. I’m talking about the software development cycle. It also taught me how to stay organized with my projects.