Learning outcome 5

Personal leadership

Cretu Claudia

ICT & Media Design

Semester 2 Class 2

- ## Who am I?

I am Claudia, a student that follows the ICT and Media Design program and I am in semester two. I like t think about myself that I am a creative person, I am very organized, and I like structure. I am always curios and I want to increase my knowledge.

As hobbies I like to read Since-Fiction and romantic books, I like to listen to rock music and go to concerts and festivals. I really enjoy walking in nature and recently, with some help from school assignments I found that I like photography. I love coffee, rainy days (when I can stay home and watch the rain from the window), the sea and thunderstorms.

- ## Portraits

For the portrait assignments I researched what are the specifications of a portrait and then I looked for inspiration online. I had in mind two ideas for the creative and professional portraits. For the professional one I wanted to have a picture carrying a laptop to suggest the message that my job and passion are related to it. The look on my face suggest confidence and I decided to look directly in the camera to put more accent on the confidence and send the message that I belong here, and I know what I am doing. For the creative photo I thought of my favorite place on Earth, the sea. To make it more fun, I took a photo of me with my octopus chain on my head, and then I edit it to look like I am at the seaside with some fun related stickers around me.
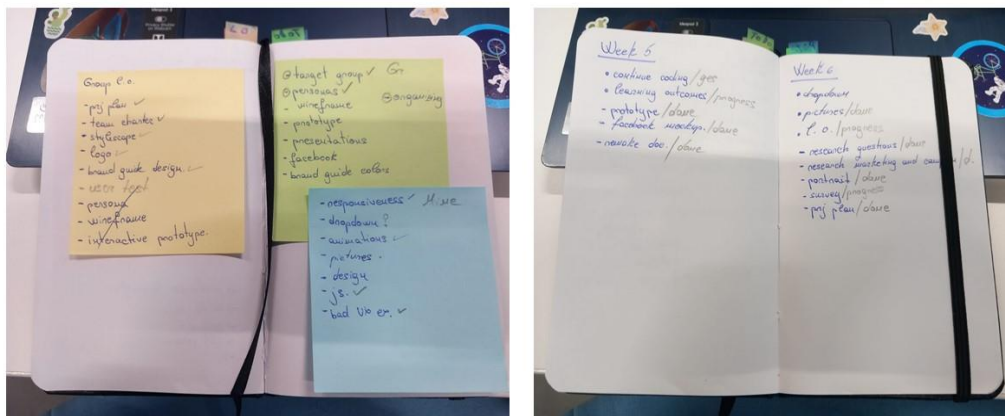
To make the photos in the university with people around was a challenge for me and then to show the photos to other people. I stepped out of my comfort zone and asked a stranger to take me some photos of me for a project. It was a nice experience that helped me open myself up and **learn to accept new challenges**.

- ## Organization

I am a very organized person and I like to structure things, create lists that help me manage my time and complete my tasks. I keep a notebook witch has a to do list organized in weeks of this semester, learning outcome section where I write my learning outcomes that need to be put in the portfolio, a notes section where I note important things like deadlines and portfolio reviews dates and a project section where I write information about the projects and ideas that I have to discuss with my team in OIL time.

Learning in this environment helped me improve my techniques to organize my lists and made me a better prepared and organized person.

- ## Feedback and reflection

I like to ask for feedback a lot. It helps improving my skills because after I create something and ask for feedback the teachers share their honest opinion and I improve the product based on the advice and suggestions that I receive. I do sometimes abuse asking for feedback, but I always reflect on it, I don t just follow advice without thinking why. I think about the advice I receive and do my research about why it would be better that way and then I change and improve. I noticed that showing my work can point out some details that I cannot see myself, and this helps.

In my first portfolio review I was advised to reflect even more on my feedback and to not be easily satisfied with my first products version. I realized that improvement requires refactoring and to become better I do have to make more versions of the products, ask feedback for them, and reflect on it on how I can make it better. For the professional standard learning outcome, I was advised to speak from "I" perspective instead of "we" which is a little hard because our way of working is that more than one person works at the same task. It is a matter of expression that I think I improved from last document, but I think it can get even better.

Reflecting on the first grade that I received, I was happy with it, because "Orienting" means I started to work on things and showed my proof of skills. I was although a little disappointed in me that I did not have any "Beginning" grades, but that just make me push even harder and aim to pass this semester.

The second grade that I received is "Beginning" to everything. I was again happy that I grew from" Orienting" but still a little disappointed that it was not more. I understood why I did not get a bigger grade and I think that alone is a step forward. I understood that I did not achieve a clear layout in my design structure that is connected to the layout of information, even the design itself was pretty and represented me. I did tr to improve it a lot, ask for feedback and reflected on it. After that I searched for more inspiration online and the teacher's advice. Another thing that teachers told me to add in my portfolio was an idea of what do I want to do in the future, or some goals. First, I did not really agree because I thought I am just semester two and I can't decide now. After some individual talks with my coach, some discussions with teachers and friends and a lot of research I managed to make an idea about that.

Asking for feedback and advice really helped me through this journey and it was essential for my improvement.

For my third review I got both "Beginning" and "Proficient" grades. I got upset for the moment and I was disappointed in myself. Until that moment I thought I have to be perfect at everything, but I have learned that is good to be just good at some stuff and have a thing that you master. I got motivated to work harder to achieve my goals and also got a better idea of what I like and do not like and what I am good and great at. These grades made me mad but also helped me grow personally and professionally.

• Struggles with self-esteem.

First workshop about JavaScript I look at the assignment I received and did not understand a thing. I did understand the presentation that the teachers gave us, but I was not able to do the assignment. I was already tired from a long project day, and I panicked. I started thinking I am not made for this and got scared that in my future semester I will not be able to learn and understand the programming languages and fail

again and again. I tend to do this thing because of some childhood trauma. After a few days I took another look at the certain assignment and with the help of AI I managed to fix it. I had some individual talks with my coach and development teacher, also talked about this struggle and fear with my boyfriend that follows software program and my fear started to fade away a bit. It is still there but I know I can manage it and prove myself that I can. I was told that the road to become a developer does not happen overnight and it takes years, and that is not required to know literary everything and using AI to help me is not a crime. These things encouraged me and increased my motivation to work on the assignments.

After a talk with my development teacher, I realized that I did not challenge myself and I settled to just solve the given assignment. I believed that happened because of the self-esteem problem, but because now I realize that I want and will change myself to learn and do more.

- ## Talents and skills

  - ## General, not really related to my profile:

    I sometimes like to draw but the only thing I am good at drawing are trees.

    A little from my background I graduated as a radiology nurse back in Romania and I have multiple medical skills and a generous knowledge in the field.

    I stared a Dutch course at the begging of semester two and I am starting to speak and understand the language. It is complicated but not impossible and I enjoy learning it. I believe The Netherlands is a beautiful and interesting country and I love living here. I am thinking of settling here maybe for life.

  - ## Related to my study program skills:

    I have knowledge in HTML and CSS, I started learning JavaScript and learning about API.

    I have some design skills and a very good communication ability.

    From Orienting phase I started to improve my presentation skills.

    I learned what UX/UI research means and how to do it.

- ## A little story about Cyber security

  One day my boyfriend that follows Cyber Security program struggled with some assignments. I was curious about the assignments, so I came to look. The task required to create some hosted servers and follow certain command that would verify that servers. Following the tasks, I managed to create the last server and follow the command to verify all three of them. The command was brief and did not tell what to do step by step. I was surprised to see that I solved it, and I did enjoy it.
  I started thinking about this field and I plan to do some research about it in the future because it looks interesting. I did speak about this with my development teacher, and he advised me to chose whatever I like but to be consistent in one field so I can get a job easier.

- ## Work approach:

  I usually work well in Oil if the assignment is related to design or coding in HTML and CSS. If it is an assignment related to JavaScript or I have to write my learning outcome I prefer to work from home because I prefer a quiet place to think.

  My work approach consists in understanding the assignment or task I have to do, and then I do research about it. After research I start making the tasks, asking for feedback, and constantly researching if needed. I improve by the feedback and then ask again until me and the teachers are happy with the result.

- ## Goals and future:

  - Goals:
    - To add more knowledge in HTML and CSS
    - To get better at design
    - To learn more about UX research
    - To improve my presenting skills
    - To learn JavaScript
    - To learn NodeJS and how to create servers and databases
    - To understand what Cyber Security means and what is it about
    - To pass semester two, and the following semesters
    - To research about the minor "Health innovation" and maybe apply to it

- To learn Dutch language at least at B2 level
- To get a design/prototype certificate
- To learn how to take amazing and unique pictures

- Future:

    When I was asked to decide what I want to become I got confused, scared and angry. I talked to my teachers and friends for guidance. I had this idea in mind, even from semester one that I do not want to choose only one job. I get bored easy, and I have an active personality, I like to do more things and experiment, this is also the reason why I chose to do a second university. Teachers told me to choose one thing, friends told me that I cannot do everything for short period of times because companies will hire people with more experience in one field than me. I was discouraged and sad, until I attended Career Day at Fontys. I attended this event for two reasons, first, to help me chose a specialization for the first semester, and second, to get a better idea about my future. I know I will have the chance to attend in semester three as well, but I know the event is too close to choose the specialization deadline, and I wanted to be prepared in time, although probably I will attend that event too.

    There, I found some interesting things about "Smart mobile" profile, and I am almost convinced to choose this specialization. I checked them all and AI does not intrigue me, I know that in Game design is hard to find a job and I don t really like online games, Cyber Security sound interesting and I will do some research about it, Smart industry does not intrigue me. I did not choose a specialization yet, but I plan to do some research over the summer, and to choose what I think it will be best for me.

    About the job thing, at Carrer Day I talked to a teacher there that was representing the Media Design profile. I confided my problem of choosing one field and I got some good answers. He told me I can chose one thing, or do everything as I want, because most companies do not hire just for one field, but for all, meaning most companies hire a single person that will handle the UX research, then the prototyping and design, and then make the front-end part. He said it is easier for the companies and also the people to have just one person that does everything from the begging to the end of the project because information is not lost, and it does not appear the risk of misunderstandings. This thing made me feel happy, that I can do what I want after graduating, meaning working in more fields at once. I know teachers will be worried about how I improve in a certain field then, and I have the answer. I will improve in everything, with time, like I know they agree, I will not be the best designer, or UX researcher, or Front-end developer, in one month, one or 4 years, it will take time to become

the best, or even just one of the best, and I am okay with that and I will enjoy it, because while we are alive, we constantly learn.

I also visited the company's floor, and talked to some and got their business card, I saw some inspiration for my own business card, when I will want to have one. Two of the companies said that they hire students part time, and I applied.

I currently work at Subway sandwiches, but it will be better to have a job where I can learn more about my fields of interest, and not smell like bread. I am not getting my hopes up, but that does not stop me to hope and keep searching.

Overall, it was a very good decision to attend Career Day, it helped a lot and was interesting. This is how my future is shaped in my mind, of course there can be change, and challenges and more, and I am excited to find out what comes next.

- Also, future and opinions on the program

In the beginning of the semester, I was told that I need to choose something related to this profile that I am good at, and I like and try to exceed and focus on that thing. First, I was angry with this and did not understand, I thought I am only semester two and it is too early to choose something. Also, at that time I wanted to do everything and work in all possible fields. Going through this semester I realized that it is not wise to work in many fields because I will lack experience and other people with more experience will be hired over me, also I realized that I don t like everything, and I am just good at some things and grate at others.

Experiencing a lot of stuff this semester I found that I love to code, I just love to play with the CSS values and colors, to learn JavaScript and create interesting and fun things. I find coding fun and relaxing and learning it pretty easy. I don t like that much editing stuff with Adobe tools, like a teacher said you either love or hate Blender, there is no in between, I am in the hate section, I like prototyping and designing but I don t have that spark for it, and User research is nice but sometimes can be exhausting.

Of course I experienced all this fields, I learned something from all of them, but this made me realize that **I want to become a front-end developer,** and I am good with just that and my nursing. I am confident in myself that I can have two jobs in two different fields and that is also one of the reasons I am learning Dutch. I will accomplish some skills in design, maybe UX research as well, but the main thing that I love and want to challenge myself for is front-end developer. I am writing this because it was a "light the bulb" moment for me and I believe people don t have to be perfect in everything, I am more than pleased to exceed in one filed and to be great, amazing at that thing and just good at other things.

Related to the specialization choice I was thinking about Smart mobile, maybe Cyber security, but in this moment, I really don t know. I plan to do some research about all of them over the summer, to start semester three and visit Career Day one more time, and then make the right decision for myself.
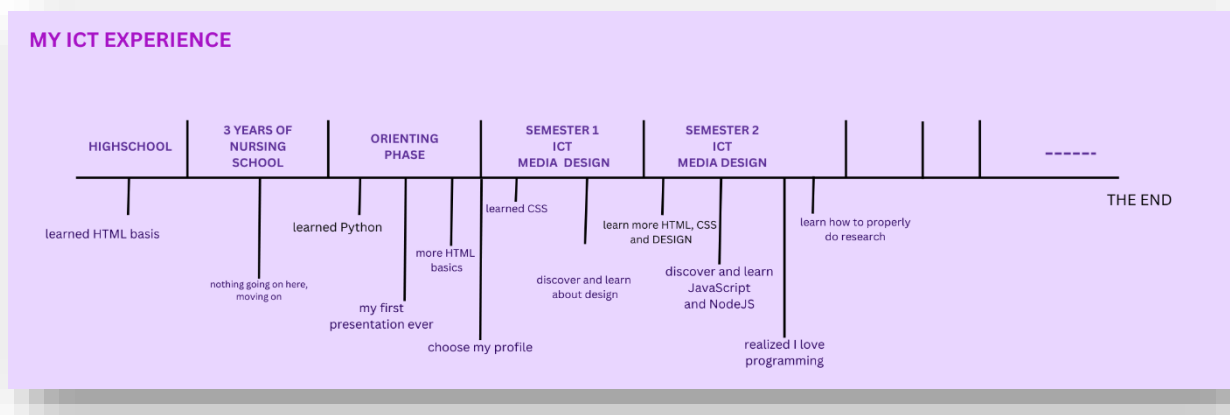

- Timeline

I have created a timeline that shows my growth and improvement over the time in ICT and Media Design field. My first meeting with something close to coding was in high school where at the Informatics class I have learned some HTML basics. It was very brief, and we coded in Notepad using simple tags to display images and text.

Later, there is a gap in this learning journey, where I took three years of learning how to be a nurse. After I graduated, I decided I want to have knowledge in the ICT field as well. I started the semester one with Orienting phase where I learned many interesting things and some things that I did not like at all like Arduino and Flask. I learned more basics of HTML and CSS, basics in Python and did my first presentation. I was very nervous at my first presentation and did not know anything about presenting, but I can see after one year how much I improved.

I decided I want to follow the Media Design program; in the first semester of the profile, I enlarged my HTML and CSS knowledge and learn basics about UX design principles. In semester two, which is about to end I was introduced to a programming language, JavaScript witch I found very interesting, and I loved learning and discovering it. I also got more knowledge on UX design and media production, which was nice, but with time I realized I am more inclined to programming. Close to the end of the semester I learned how to do proper research following a methodology.

I can't wait to see how this adventure will continue in semester three.

• 3 jobs assignment

This task is about finding three jobs that I want to apply to, see their requirements and see what I know and what I don't know. From the requirements take something and make it goals for the future.

This is what I have found:

1. Front-end developer.

Requirements:

- communication skills

- Documenting technical specifications and solutions

- Knowledge in JavaScript, HTML and CSS

- familiar with Figma

- Have problem-solving skills and enjoy taking on technical challenges

- Have a real passion for web development.

- Constantly strives for the best results.

- Can work well with a multidisciplinary team.

- Can work independently on assigned tasks.

- Knows how to meet agreed deadlines for projects.

- Is honest and does not sweep mistakes under the carpet.

- Is personally involved with colleagues and customers.

I believe I have a basis in all the skills presented, but I know it is room for improvement everywhere. Learning goals for this job would be:

- improve communication skills

- more JavaScript experience

- improve problem-solving thinking

2. Front-end developer

Requirements

- communication skills

- problem solving thinking

- able to work with a team

- able to deliver before deadline

- good knowledge in JavaScript, HTML, CSS, React

- able to convert Figma complex designs into code

- Dutch and English b2 language level

I believe I have some of the skills presented, and I believe they can always be improved.

The learning goals I would like to achieve for this job will be:

- learn React

- learn Dutch at B2 level

- improve communication skills

- more JavaScript experience

- improve problem-solving thinking

3. Nurse

Requirements:

-B2 Dutch language level

- communication skills

- attention to details

- empathy

- critical thinking

- adaptability

- medical knowledge to provide for the patients

- medical skills

I believe I have basis in all the skills mentioned, although all of them can be improved. Main learning goals for this job would be to learn Dutch language and grow my medical knowledge and skills.

The last job is not related to the ICT profile, yet it is relevant and important for me, because as I mentioned before I am confident that I can manage to work in both fields.

- **How am I seen by others?**

- **My boyfriend:**

"I saw that you really improved in your coding skills from orienting when I would explain you Python code to now when you are able to create interesting things in JavaScript, yourself I was always amazed of how you stand and like to code every feature in pure CSS. I think you make cute designs, and you structure everything. I have no opinion on the UX research because I did not see your work related to that. I noticed you like to take photos and became interested in photography. I think you have potential in programming, and I will always advice you to go on the software side of this field. Also, I was surprised to see you knew how to help me with that Cyber security assignment, I can't tell if it is the right decision for you just from a task, but you did good on it."
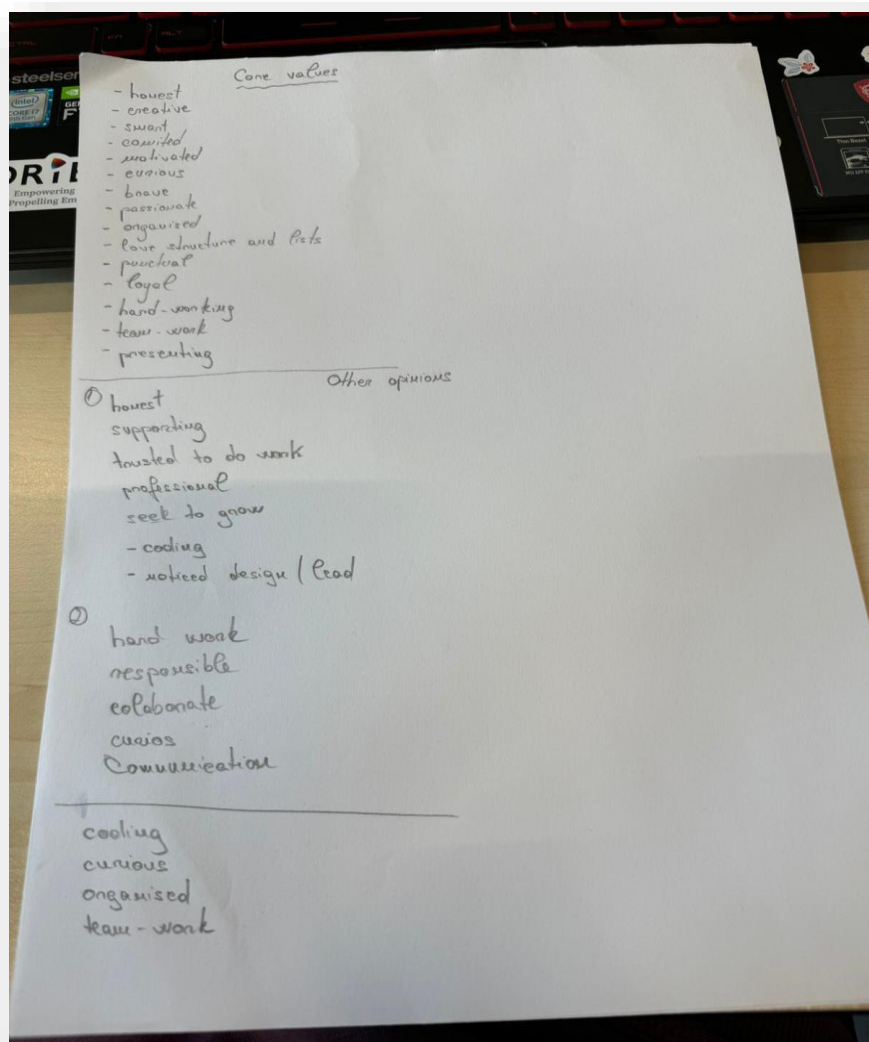
- **Teacher/Coach:**

"I think you have a solid grasp on development and your ability to acquire more skills, I think you enjoy it too. I believe your design thinking ability is something you can work on. I'm curious to see if you can focus more on the creative side and mastering more principles and patterns that improve your standing as a designer. You can definitely work on your critical ability to self-assess and improve your processes. I see a collaborative mindset in you, you are highly motivated, and you challenge yourself (which is definitely not something everyone does). I think you are a good team player, and it might be interesting to do a personality test to figure out what team roles fit you best."

- **Development teacher:**

"I think you are hardworking and motivated student, so these two core values are very visible and important."

- Core values

This is a very helpful assignment that was about writing as many core values as possible that I think I have in five minutes. The task was to not overthink and write what pops in my mind. I wrote some and then ask two of my colleges to tell me what they think are my core values. After that I compared the answers and chose some core values that were important. This task helped me get to know myself better and see how other people see me. From the same reason I asked my boyfriend, and some teachers do the same and give their honest opinion.

- Pitch

    I created a one-minute pitch in which I present myself and argument why I would be good for a certain job. It is a fictional pitch that I created to get the chance to practice pitching and presenting for job interviews. I believe that the question that they ask at the interview "Who are you?" is very important and should be answered with the person core values professionally and technical ones.

    The video is located in the video page in my portfolio at the end of the page.

    I got feedback for the video pitch and based on the feedback I wrote a better script, but I did not film the script because if I don t learn the script by heart is hard to improvise, also I would not want to be seen in the video that I am reading stuff from somewhere. The feedback I received was to be more specific how am I a collaborative person in teamwork and to be more specific in general.

This is the script after feedback:

"Hello,

   My name is Cretu Claudia, and I am 22 years old. I graduated from Fontys University of Applied Science on ICT media design profile, and I would like to apply at this job as a front-end developer.

I'm highly organized and always on time, while also thriving in collaborative team environments. Proficient in the art of presentation, I am very good both as an organizer and a cooperative team member, having effective communication skills. My expertise extends to MongoDB database management, alongside proficiency in an array of programming languages including JavaScript, React, Python, HTML, CSS, Node.js, and Express. I am always open to learn new things and I love challenges.

It is with these competencies that I confidently believe I would be the best fit for this job."