Ethan Dunham

CS261 Assignment 0

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**Intro:**

My name is Ethan Dunham. I grew up in northern New York, on the border with Canada. I received my BA in History from Louisiana State university in Baton Rouge, LA. I did some work as an archaeologist for a while and then decided to get an MS in Cultural Resource Management Archaeology at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. I was a graduate assistantship for the first year, but budget cuts led to me not receiving it a second year. Due to being an out of state student, I chose to stop pursuing that degree instead of going into a lot of debt for limited job prospects. I worked in security and hospitality in New Orleans for a year, then moved to Los Angeles with my fiancé.

I chose Oregon State University ecampus because it does not have out of state tuition. Thus, it provided the most economical plan for me to pursue a degree. I also seem to move around a lot, so the online aspect is very useful in case I move before finishing the degree.

I chose computer science after my friend introduced me to the idea. I researched the industry and job market and found it to be flourishing. After doing a very limited amount of JavaScript and Java on codeacademy.com, I decided to apply to the program. Code Academy was the only other coding experience I’ve really had except for classes and some Unity. I learned a bit of C# for Unity, but only know C++ with any strength.

In the future, I would like to get into the autonomous car industry, but have no idea where to begin. Future jobs are also determined by my location and where my fiancé is willing to move to.

I enjoy snowboarding and tennis. Preferably, I will end up living in a place with more snowboarding opportunities than Orange County.

I did not know computer science had a perception problem. Maybe it is just CS having a bad self image? I think a lot of people don’t look at CS as a possible degree because they have no idea of its existence or an idea of what it entails. I chose History for my first degree because it was familiar to me and I had no idea what other majors were out there. I think a solution to this would be to require all first year college students to take a very easy class on different majors and what the job outcomes are for each major. That class would have helped me a lot in not wasting 5 years of my life working towards mostly useless degrees.

I felt like the intro classes were interesting enough. I had very little coding experience, so I found them informative and entertaining. I would like to see more compounding assignments in the classes though. CS 162 had a project that was submitted once and then enhanced for another assignment later in the class. I thought that was more interesting than the normal projects because it gave me a sense that I would building onto something.

**Programming experience:**

As previously stated, I had very little programming experience before entering the program. I have been using Visual Studios for all my coding needs because I found flip to be unwieldy and not to my liking. I’ve taken CS 161 and 162 and Assembly Language. I have 6 months of experience with C++, 3 months with MASM assembly, 1 week of Java and JavaScript, and 3 days of C# experience.



