

Reflective Essay

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The information studies coursework has provided a look at the various aspects of information science. The overall program is broken down into several concentrations which include data science and analytics, health informatics, information security, intelligence analysis, and web development technologies. Among the various concentrations there will be overlaps since they are a part of the greater information science program. Because of this, even though I have a concentration in web development technologies I was able to experience other parts such as information security as well as data science. These overlaps allowed me to gain an understanding of the different areas in information science and technology. Regardless of these overlaps, the information science related field that I am interested in pursuing a career in is web development. I believe that the information science program has allowed me to build a solid foundation in web development that will help me step into the field. I gained experience with frontend as well as backend technologies, and I consider the user experience through interaction design as well as usability through information architecture. I will be discussing my thoughts on the various aspects of the information science program and recommendations for the program.

Aspects of the Program

What I Liked

My favorite courses were the ones that involved programming. I also liked how I had to build websites from scratch in the web development courses that focused on the coding. Those gave me a chance to put together everything that I learned which made it very useful. Another aspect I appreciated was how the information architecture course

involved a semester long group project which gave me some experience with teamwork and communication through online interactions. Also, I like how flexible the program feels since there are a lot of elective slots. This allowed me to transition more smoothly from another program, and it may allow others to explore the different course offered by the university.

What I Disliked

The abundance of online only courses. I understand that online courses provide more opportunities for those who would otherwise be unable to attend an in-person class at a scheduled time. However, I am a person who distracts easily so online courses were sometimes more time-consuming and difficult than an in-person class. Furthermore, it does not feel as engaging to me. The courses that I felt provided the least value were the ones that were dependent on Cengage.

Additions or Changes

Possible additions that could be made to the information science program, specifically the web development technologies concentration, would be more electives or core courses that are related to the concentration. For example, a course that focuses on or uses several of the JavaScript frameworks available such as Vue.JS or React. Another kind of course I believe would be useful is one that focuses on mobile design and accessibility. The web development courses I took had me build websites that were primarily for desktop usage.

Conclusion

Even though I will be completing the information science program, I intend to continuing pursuing additional education. The web development technologies

concentration has allowed me to build a solid foundation, but there are still many technologies, concepts, and frameworks that I should learn about if I am to step in the field. If I were to aim for a more advanced degree, then I think I would continue with the University of South Florida. The program has its strengths in its flexibility and overlapping nature which provides a broad view of the field of information science. However, I think the concentrations, at least web development technologies, would benefit from additional core electives or courses that expand on mobile usage or JavaScript frameworks.