

General Education Reflection

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While being at Iowa State University, I have had the great pleasure of pursuing my passion of learning. In this pursuit, I have chosen to study Computer Engineering, a major and a field that has many opportunities that I enjoy. But on top of learning about computers, Iowa State has given me the opportunity to take classes that are not related to my major. I hold these classes in high regards as they have taught me many lessons that are as applicable as lessons and technical knowledge as what I learn in my Computer Engineering classes. While at Iowa State University, I was able to take three general education classes, HD FS 239, SPAN 303B and HSPM 383.

In taking HD FS 239, Housing and Consumer Issues my first semester at Iowa State, I had my introduction to general education electives. In this course, I learned about the housing market, all the way from architecture to economic home theory, the economics behind home prices, when to buy houses, and mortgages. I also learned the basics of credit. Taking this course helped me realize that homes are truly the American Dream and are not something that many people can afford. It made me realize that computers and modern technology should be as accessible to everyone as possible. This means that not only the wealthiest should be the users of the computers and software that my classmates and I will be designing. This class inspired me to think in a way that considers people from all areas of society, not just myself. Now when I design technologies, I do so in a way that is the most cost-effective. That way, more people in our society can enjoy the convenience and better quality of life that comes with the

technologies that we are designing. At the end of the day, consumers need to have things that are affordable.

The next General Education class I took was during my sixth semester at Iowa State University. In SPAN 303B, Spanish Conversations and Composition: for Professionals, I got to learn the art of conversing in Spanish in a business setting. While I know Spanish fluently, I only know Spanish in a casual sense since I use it while conversing with family and friends. As the semester went on, I had the opportunity to learn many words that are very specific to business that I would never use in a general conversation. This made me realize that even though I thought of myself to be an expert in Spanish, knowing it fluently, I still had a lot to learn in the language. This was a feeling that I need to remember, even as I do become an expert in an area. I still need to learn more and should never stop learning. This mentality matches my general philosophy of being a lifelong learner. This philosophy comes along with the field that I am entering, Computer Engineering. Computer Engineering is a very rapidly changing field and I need to always be reading up on new trends and technologies as my career goes on, even when I am not in school.

My final General Education class I have taken was during my seventh semester. I took HSP M 383 and 383L, Wine, Beer and Spirits, where I learned about distinguishing a variety of wines as well as learning about becoming a restaurant owner and running a bar. From the description of the class, it seemed that the class would be an easy, relaxing class to take with my friends. When I got to class, it was exciting but also a lot more work than I had expected. This taught me the lesson that not everything that seems easy, is easy. It is a great experience to go through because Software Engineering is just that. Engineers and managers allot time for certain

projects and have to be aware when a task may seem easy, but might end up with a bug that causes the entire project to come to a halt.

I have had the great opportunity to learn from these experiences in these classes. From learning about affordability in HD FS 239, to never under estimating anything in HSPM 383, I will use these experiences when designing and implementing projects in the future.