

BSIS Program Review 3

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Introduction

I am graduating in the web development concentration of the BSIS program at USF. During my web development internship at MagMutual, I experienced developing web applications with a team. From this experience in the web development industry, I can say that the BSIS program has mostly prepared me to work in the industry. The program has taught me many things and prepared me for most of the things I will encounter in the web development industry, but it also lacked in some areas.

Group Project Experience

There were some group project experiences, but there was not a group project that simulated a real work environment. A real work environment typically contains designers who create the sitemaps and wireframes, developers who build the software through coding, quality assurance who tests the product ,and a product leader who determines the directions of the project. There was a group project in which we were responsible for creating sitemaps and wireframes, but this was a team of all designers, and the product was never built. Assigning a group project with these roles and a working website as an end goal would provide for a more realistic working experience.

Format

The online class format for the core program had benefits and drawbacks. The online format simulated remote working conditions which is helpful in preparing for a potential remote work position. I learned how to work effectively with people over the internet which was beneficial. The flexibility to be able to watch lectures and work on

assignments generally whenever I wanted to was beneficial. I disliked the online format due to the impersonal atmosphere of online classrooms. It felt challenging to make any real connections with the teachers or other students in an online environment. Some of the online classes did not allow students to work ahead due to the assignment release schedule even after the teachers were asked for this to be changed. I prefer having the ability to work ahead on assignments. This also meant that the final projects could not be worked on until the very last few weeks of the semester which was challenging. I would suggest instead having the instructions for assignments always viewable from day 1. I also disliked that in some of the courses, professors did not approve project topics or grade assignments until the last possible moment which made things more stressful than they needed to be.

Suggestions

I would suggest offering more courses that involve group projects such as designing websites, building websites, maintaining websites, testing websites, setting up work environments, and setting up databases.

Conclusion

I currently do not plan on continuing education in this field. I plan to work in the web development or data science field for a few years before reevaluating furthering my education. If I were to continue my education, I would seek a masters or phd in artificial intelligence. I believe I will encounter and learn the areas that I did not learn in this program during my work experience. Although the program did not specialize in web

development as deeply as I would have liked, I learned many things about information science I would never have learned if I did not take this program. I also developed my communication, writing, and critical thinking skills during this program that will help me greatly during my future career experience.