

General education classes teach you to think differently and consider different outcomes and factors. For example, I learned communication skills and the importance of considering the larger humanitarian impact. These classes enabled me to begin thinking outside of the box, considering different approaches and suggesting solutions to problems that would cause an adverse long-term issue, while also learning to communicate these complex topics and issues in an easy-to-understand message.

General education classes taught me communication skills and the ability to communicate these complex topics and issues into a condensed message. For example, I took Fundamentals of Oral Communication 212, I was given a chance to practice and challenge myself in learning about my audience, considering the factors that they are considering. The general education courses I took taught me a holistic approach, evaluating more than just the problem itself and the most straightforward, best way to solve it, but instead to consider the people involved in the situation and the details behind the problem. My general education classes didn't teach me what to build. They taught me why to build it, who I'm building it for, and how to ensure it creates a positive legacy.

My general education class taught me to see beyond the engineering problem/solution; it taught me to consider the factors behind the issue. Taking Sociology 235 (Social Problems and American Values) taught me to consider my audience and the factors that impact their lives. I learned to consider the various global situations people have growing up, whether race, gender, economic environment, background, or cultures. I learned empathy to reason with them and also learned rhetoric to adapt. I practice my tone and language for different listeners. This class taught me to consider the human dimension of problem-solving. Meeting people where they are at taught me to see the people, not the problem. I also learned in Music 304 History of American Rock and Roll about culture and how, as things develop and cultures shift and change, so do the people. People matter and have different ways of expressing their thoughts and emotions. While taking this class, I learned that everyone has their unique

way of expressing themselves and being their own person. Everyone is perfectly unique and contributes to society in their own way.

Ultimately, paired with my experience in Russia Today 375, I was allowed to see the real-world impacts of engineering decisions. Events like Chernobyl taught me as an engineer that my choices have a global impact and results, both bad and good. My decisions don't impact me and my job, but have implications for people worldwide. An engineering solution is not developed in a vacuum. The solutions we develop seriously affect the environment and the ecosystems around us. In the Chernobyl event, it had long-standing impacts not just on the environment and wildlife but also people in the area. There are real people's lives involved.

Overall, I learned to see the problem and the solution as an engineer, and my general education classes taught me to consider all the factors beyond the problem. These classes taught me to see the people, the environment, and so much more. Setting me up to communicate, listen, and consider the long term impact of our decisions