

General Education Reflection

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As an engineering student at Iowa State University, I have been required to take a wealth of general education courses to expand my wealth of knowledge to outside the scope of my interests in university. My understanding of what the general education course schedule is to allow engineering students to explore outside their field, meet a larger diversity of students, and learn to create relationships and sensitivities to topics in which they normally wouldn't immerse themselves in.

During my time here, I have taken a total of 12 credits in General Electives, and I'm currently taking my remaining 3 with LD ST 322. Some of them have been extremely helpful with my professional development, such as ECON 101, while other have been more helpful with developing my personal skills, such as LD ST 322 and SPAN 304, while others were just there to keep me occupied with something other than problem solving engineering courses. Overall I feel like they were necessary to my curriculum, while sometimes I do prefer that were not as time consuming as they were, since my real focus is my engineering courses, therefore there will be cases in which the classes expect me to allot them a large amount of time, which I am not willing to give, since I have other courses that require it so much more.

In my opinion that is the biggest flaw with the general elective program. These classes, often for STEM majors, usually end up taking a backseat in our schedules and end up with just us trying to catch up with them as to the best of our abilities while we have some off time from the courses that carry a much larger priority.

Aside from this downside, I do feel like they can carry an important role in our development here at Iowa State University. Specifically, ECON 101 has helped me understand better supply and demand, why certain products carry a higher value than others, and how this could apply to projects and products that I will be able to produce in the future. This course is a great supplement to

Computer/Software/Electrical engineering students, since it plays directly to some of the topics that we will be led into the future, since the market it such a big factor in the technology industry.

Other courses, such as SPAN 304 and LD ST 322 supplement team based project courses very well, providing insight into communicating with others, being understanding, and create good relationships between team members of varying cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds. This plays a big part in the tech industry, since most of our team in the future will be working with large teams of people spanning various ethnicities and backgrounds. Understanding this will be valuable any student in any field, not just engineers.

Overall, my time taking General Education was valuable, yet I do wish that I would've been able to dedicate more time to these courses. This probably could be done with more careful course scheduling by my part and not overloading my semesters with tons of problem solving courses.