# **Learning Journal Unit 3**

Computer Science, University of the People

UNIV 1001 - Online Education Strategies - AY2024-T1

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## Reflection Topic: Planning for Graduation and Career

## Part 1 - Courses

1. My desired degree is a **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (Bs-Cs)**
2. I plan to take this many classes per term: **2**. It should take me **10** terms to finish my degree.
3. I am looking forward to these classes:
   1. **CS 4407: Data Mining and Machine Learning** - I'm excited about this course because machine learning is a rapidly evolving field with numerous applications in today's tech world.
   2. **CS 4408: Artificial Intelligence** - AI has always fascinated me, and I'm eager to delve deeper into its concepts and applications. And this course, even though it is an elective I think is crucial for anyone in the field of computer programming to know.
4. I am a little nervous or concerned about these classes:
   1. **MATH 1211: Calculus** - The last time I learned calculus was approx. 20 years ago, so even though I do use it while working from time to time I'm still a bit worried about learning it in an educational environment.
   2. **CS 4404: Advanced Networking and Data Security** - With the increasing threats in the digital world, understanding data security is crucial. Networks have always been a bit of a personal weakness of mine. So, I hope I'm able to overcome my shortcomings and ace this course.

## Part 2: Transferable Skills

**Five skills I believe I have mastered:**

1. **Creative thinking:** I've constantly tried to stay at the forefront of innovation in our company over the years. Whether it's conceptualizing a new software solution or finding unique ways to tackle challenges, my ability to think outside the box is constantly being tested.
2. **Analyzing:** As a CTO, I'm constantly presented with vast amounts of data and information. My knack for analyzing these, breaking them down, and deriving actionable insights has been a cornerstone of our company's success.
3. **Problem-solving:** In the tech world, problems are a dime a dozen. From software glitches to larger systemic issues, my problem-solving skills have often been the beacon guiding our team towards solutions.
4. **Communicating:** Whether it's communicating our company's vision to our team, or explaining complex technical concepts to non-tech stakeholders, my ability to convey ideas has always been appreciated.
5. **Public speaking:** Over the years, I've represented our company in a variety of ways. Speaking in front of large audiences, sharing our achievements, teaching large classes. All these have made public speaking second nature to me.

**Five skills important to my career that I believe I can further refine:**

1. **Negotiating:** While I've been part of countless negotiations, I feel there's always room to improve, especially as the tech landscape becomes more competitive and intricate. I have always preferred the tech side of the business and left the money and negotiations to the people who excel in that field.
2. **Perceiving Feelings:** As someone who's always been more inclined towards logic and analysis, I recognize the importance of emotional intelligence, especially when leading a diverse team. I aim to be more attuned to the feelings and emotions of those around me.
3. **Selling:** While our products often speak for themselves, mastering the art of selling is something I believe can always be refined. And as mentioned above I find myself more drawn to the technical side of the business.
4. **Active listening:** In my dual role as a CTO and a teacher, I've realized the importance of truly listening. While I do pay attention, I aim to cultivate a deeper level of active listening to better understand and address concerns, whether they come from my team, my students or even my family members.
5. **Active learning:** The tech world is ever-evolving. Even with my vast experience, I believe in the continuous pursuit of knowledge. I aim to dedicate more time to active learning, ensuring I stay ahead of the latest in our industry. This is just one of the reasons I decided to finally do my degree.

**References:**

1. University of the People - Undergraduate Catalog 2023/24 (Term 1). <https://catalog.uopeople.edu/undergraduate-catalog-term-1>
2. University of the People – Undergraduate catalog: 2023/24 > Computer Science > Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BS-CS)  
   <https://catalog.uopeople.edu/ug_term1_item/computer-science/bachelor-of-science-in-computer-science-bs-cs>
3. Chapter 12 Section 4 of our text, College Success  
   <https://open.lib.umn.edu/collegesuccess/chapter/12-4-getting-the-right-stuff/>