

Comp240 CPD

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1 Introduction

The end of the second year is a big achievement and with the third and final year approaching it is vital I review this terms faults to assure I'm able to achieve the best grade I can. In this report I will review five key skills that I think I performed weakly and that need improvement, each skill is taken from a different domain so that my improvement will increase the quality of my work as a whole.

2 The Affective domain

One factor that has always been a major factor in my productivity and is something that i've been working on but need to improve on it a lot is the management of my stress and emotions. The way this affects my work is if I'm in a slump and feeling down I don't want to do anything, just lay under the sheets all day and go to bed, with this said I get next to none work down which then increases the stress even more. A technique that I have started and will be carrying on to increase its effects is physical exercising. Running has been proving to decrease stress and clears some negative thoughts out of the runner's mind, by aiming to run at least twice a week it will help refresh me and get me out of week long slumps that i'd otherwise be spending doing nothing. I will also try when stuck on a problem to go out for a run and come back with a fresh look on things.

3 The Interpersonal domain

Arranging time to work with my peers has greatly hindered a module I worked on this year as this was a very group driven task. By not having the time to sit and work with them I fell behind on work and knowledge of the task, and by then end of it I wasn't able to fulfill my true potential. There are two ways I can improve but both will need to be agreed and followed through by my peers. The first is online resources such as skype or TeamSpeak where one or two times a week we all work on a project or on the same task and assist each other when

needed. The second is spending an hour or two after certain days and review work we are struggling on and try and help each other out. After two weeks we can get together and decide if it's helping and if so anything we are doing wrong therefore still communicating and working together.

4 The dispositional domain

A big weakness in my work ethic this year is my ability to cut coursework into small manageable workloads. Sparsely doing work and then leaving it the last couple weeks is a recurring and unproductive habit. By managing small study time periods each week, in which I work for that set time limit before doing anything else I would be able to keep up a consistent work routine. I would measure this by setting goals and reviewing them at the week's end, if I have achieved at least one thing on the list it means I am progressing instead procrastinating. When I reach a point where this is easier for myself to stay disciplined to I would increase the workload goals or increase the time I'm working for.

5 The cognitive domain

A key knowledge based ethic that I have been lacking this year is the use of the library and the vast knowledge base of the books inside. The amount of reading I have done is only as the much as needed for my assignments, and this is mainly articles and book snippets online. It affects my work by being limited to online resources and by expanding this resource base I would in turn expand my general knowledge on a range of subjects. I would like to improve myself by each month taking out a book on the said subject to read, I would read a certain amount of chapters a week and hopefully by the end of it have a better understanding on the subject. Alongside this I'd have a longer book on Unreal or C++ that I'd steadily read throughout the term and have a project I'd be working on so I can access how much I learn by implementing into the project.

6 The procedural domain

When it comes to errors in code and logic based blueprints having a good problem solving skill base is vital in progressing at a steady base. I found that when I came to problems that seemed too difficult I would procrastinate them instead of aiming to deal with them. A way that I can improve on this skill is through the IDEAL method for problem solving. When faced with a problem and not sure how to go about it you follow these 5 simple steps. You Identify the problem, Define the problem, Examine the options, Act on a plan and then Look at the consequences. This a simple way of doing things but It would allow me to do something rather than getting flustered on computing problems. Having a pen and paper on hand while working would allow me to write down

notes on each consequence, and after a few problems I will be able to see if this method of problem solving is working out for me.

7 Conclusion

The five skills I have stated will if improved have an advantageous effect on my work, although I should improve them all if I were to improve even two it would still increase my work ethic greatly. The main domain I would like to focus my effort in improving is the dispositional domain as I have severely slacked in this and I can see myself making the most gains here. With all this said I would also like to keep an A3 poster of these different domains for future reference so that when I find myself slacking again I am able to review this for inspiration.