**End of Course Report.**

Jacob Watson

Goderich District Collegiate Institute

ICS3U: Introduction to Computer Science

Mr. Murphy

June 16, 2023

**Learning Skills**

**Developed Skills**

Two learning skills I believe I developed throughout this course are time management and perseverance. Time management was essential during many parts of the course, when I had to manage the assigned computer science tasks, as well as do work from my other classes, in addition to my already busy schedule. I believe that my time management skills were most developed whilst working on three lessons that were due over the Easter weekend. I had to manage spending time with family in Owen Sound, work for my other classes, and the increased workload in preparation for midterms. I think that the increased pressure allowed me to improve my time management skills greatly. Perseverance was extremely important over the weekends, when I had assignments to catch up on, or when I was trying to get ahead in preparation for a busy week. Sometimes it was tough to sit down on work on computer science for hours, but it was well worth it. Specifically, I remember the reporting on post-secondary and other programs requiring a lot of focused time and effort. Making sure I got these assignments done on time, really developed my skills in pushing through periods of boredom and frustration. Another time I remember when perseverance was essential, was whilst making my end of course culminating project. I had to learn how to dynamically create swing elements for the GUI, and at some points, it became incredibly frustrating. I had no idea what was causing the program not to work, and it seemed like everything was perfectly correct. I had to persevere through the frustration to get the project done.

**Skills Requiring Development**

I think that two skills that would need further development before I pursue a post-secondary course in computer science would be attention to detail, and discipline. Many times, throughout the course, I didn’t spend as much time as I maybe should have, checking over my programs. This led to issues where there were uncaught errors left in my code when it was submitted. I think that I could further develop this skill by employing strategies like creating a test plan and setting aside a block of time where I do nothing but check over my code. I believe that if I just tell myself that a certain period is set aside for checking code, then I will be less likely to just breeze through the code without thoroughly checking for errors. Discipline was another underdeveloped work habit that would need to be improved. Many times throughout the course, I found it hard to get started working on the assignments, unless I actively had a due date coming up. I think that practicing doing assignments, even when I don’t feel like doing them will help me to develop this skill, and allow me to become a more disciplined individual.

**Tips for New Students**

The three main tips I would give to new students are as follows, stay ahead of the workload, put your best effort into every assignment, and enjoy the course. It is vital that new students stay ahead of the workload, and miss as few due dates as possible. Missing assignments is a slippery slope, and although this course has a manageable workload, it is easy to get left behind if you don’t keep up. Make sure that you are always able to complete the content on time, and aim to be a little bit ahead of where you need to be. When you put your best effort into every assignment, you’re able to create something that you’re proud of. Your assignments will be of a much higher quality, and may even exceed the expectations for that task. I believe that most of the successful students this year created high quality projects, that they were genuinely interested in completing. I think its vital to enjoy the course in order to be motivated to complete assignments on time, and to do your best work. Computer science is an amazing subject, and you can create all kinds of amazing things. Enjoy the course, do your best work, stay caught up, and you are on the path for a highly successful semester.