

My main expectation coming into this class was to learn more about databases and software development in a way that I would be able to use in the future. A learning goal I set for myself was being able to explain how a database works with software to make it do what it wants it to do. I would personally say I achieved this goal and understand front and back end interactions. Some practice tools I used included the REST API tutorial provided on the slides, w3schools SQL tutorial, and videos explaining Vue and React.

Over the course of the semester my goal to be able to completely understand front and back end interaction stayed the same, but as we learned about the beginning processes of developing software, I made another one of my goals to learn how to communicate with a group effectively and how to work together on projects like these. My group did not do the best job of this as many parts of our project were simply split up between group members and done separately. We quickly learned why this method did not work and it caused a lot of our group's downfall. Working separately caused many miscommunications which affected our work later on in the semester.

I feel as if I was successful in the sense of improving my work from the beginning of the semester. I began to really understand the purpose of all of the parts of the software development process and why they are important. I also learned a lot from my other teammates. Watching how they went about programming certain parts of the software gave me some insight on how to be able to do it in the future. Having the group meetings every week definitely was a good call and was the reason our group got as far as we did. Without those, the communication in my group would have been close to nonexistent. These helped with my overall success in this course.

This semester has been a really tough semester overall. I failed a lot of goals I had set for myself at the beginning of the semester, but maybe I had set too many too high. While, yes, I do believe I could have worked harder, this semester has also been very difficult for everyone. I failed my goals specifically for this course because I did not put in nearly enough effort to get the most benefit out of it that I could have. What I've learned from this is that I need to block out time to work on each class equally. I often get caught up in spending the most time on the classes that require the most work to be turned in every week and it becomes easy to forget about other classes that may not have that. Trying to squeeze other classes in at the last minute instead of taking the time out of my day to only work on that class has resulted in an imbalance in my effort towards certain classes. While I may have been able to work harder, I still feel more educated than I was before about the software development process and databases. I learned a lot of useful information and feel like there was a lot to be taken away from this course.

This semester I have finally found out what I want to do with my life. I am unfortunately dropping the IKM concentration and am switching to Energy. This semester I took the first energy course in ISAT and realized that it was something I was truly passionate about. I have been programming since my freshman year of college when I came in as a computer science major and always knew it was not my passion, but I never knew what was. I have finally found something that will be fulfilling for me to work in and that I am truly excited about. While I am switching from this concentration, I am thankful for everything it has taught me and I still believe that programming is such a useful and important skill to have and understand. I believe a B would be a fair grade for this semester. I put in the work needed to get my work done, but I do not believe that the quality of my work was "A" level quality. This was the case for many of my courses this semester, including this one.