

### General Education Reflection

The past few years here at Iowa State have involved many STEM-oriented classes, however, there also have been a variety of general education classes mixed in, to help better build me all around. Some general education classes genuinely surprised me with how interesting and engaging they were. I'm going to highlight the main general education courses that I benefited from most, and how these classes still helped to shape me into the engineer I am today.

The first two general education classes I took were during my senior year of high school through my local community college. These courses transferred in for credits for SP CM 212 and PSYCH 101. The public speaking course was taken online, which was interesting. Looking back now, I feel like I should've taken this class in person, and I find it strange that this course is even offered as an online section. One area I still struggle with is public speaking, and taking this class online didn't do as much help for me as taking it in person might have. Next, even though the material from the Psychology class isn't directly important for my degree, it really helped me understand the college workload and prepare me for college at Iowa State. This class was quite homework-heavy, which ended up being a great thing for me because it taught me the importance of time management. One of the best habits I learned from this class was to start assignments when they are given, rather than waiting until near the due date. This is the best tip I could give to incoming college students.

During my time at Iowa State, I've taken several general education classes, including AGRON 342, RUS 375, ENT 201, and ECON 101. I mentioned before about being surprisingly interested in some of the general education classes, and the main one that was true for me was RUS 375. Going into this class, I had no intention of being interested in the history of Russia. However, the Russia-Ukraine war started near the time I took this class. This sparked an interest in the country's leadership for me. Learning about the history of the different leaders of the Soviet Union and Russia helped me better understand what led up to the current war. Classes like these help to open your eyes to the world as a whole, and how every country has such a unique past that has influenced how they have gotten to the place they are now.

As I look forward, past college, I reflect on how these past several years have changed who I am as a person overall. I am glad Iowa State has these general education requirements for engineering degrees. Taking these classes, alongside my core classes, has really helped me to mature and learn about a variety of issues. Working to increase your knowledge in several different categories is very important to becoming a better, well-rounded person overall. Once I find and begin a full-time job, I will be solving engineering problems each and every day. Although my engineering classes will have had the biggest impact on my ability to solve these problems, the general education classes will have a big impact on the rest of my work life.