

# General Education Reflection

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I arrived at Iowa State University with a number of credits for general education. I was a reasonably well-rounded student in high school, which allowed me to transfer these credits. Regardless, I still had a couple of 300-level classes I needed to take and another class I wanted to take, which was a prerequisite for other courses. In total, I took three general education courses.

I took my first general education elective in my second semester. Economics 101 was a microeconomics introduction class that was a prerequisite for most economic or business-related courses. While I did have some economics classes in high school, I never had the chance to take a proper microeconomics class. I did well in this class, but I found it legitimately interesting. Going to college means becoming an adult and seeing how the world works. Econ 101 puts everything into perspective as to how the world works. I enjoyed this aspect, and I think about something related to it in the companies I work for and the places I buy from.

Management 370 was a management class run by the Ivy College of Business. In Solar Car, I was in the middle of becoming a software team manager and playing a role in other leadership positions. My future hopes to work with startups also necessitate management skills. This class was primarily online, but the lectures and textbook were quite immersive. The content discussed was beneficial. This ranges from planning projects and committees to handling people with different personalities and working styles. I hold these lessons close to me today. As the software manager for Solar Car, I regularly use the techniques and skills outlined in this class. For example, the lesson on clan culture holds very true to how the software team operates. There's a level of togetherness that brings people up and pushes projects forward.

Finally, I took Architecture 321, which provided a history of American cities. This is obviously on a different set of topics compared to the other two general education classes. I mentioned being a well-rounded student, and this is an example of this. I enjoyed American History and Western History in high school (and got credit for them here), and I also enjoyed looking around at the cities I've lived and traveled to and wondering how they ended up the way they are. Perhaps I see city design as engineering a city, its infrastructure, economy, and people. The problem-solving that exists and the way things all connect is similar to that of engineering. Mixing this with American history, something I always love to learn about, makes for my favorite general education class. Seeing how the world around me came together gives me insight into how things will happen in the future.