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Assignment: End of Course Reflection

What stood out to you as the most important things you learned about computer programming this quarter? Why do you think they're important?

While I had some programming experience coming into this class, I had never taken a formal computer science course. The most important thing I learned about computer programming by taking this course is that there are many different “correct” solutions to a given problem. While interacting with classmates and comparing our work, I recognized that while others approached a problem differently than I did, they still came up with their own working solution. This is important because in future classes and especially in my career, I need to stay open-minded about problem solving and learn from others’ problem solving techniques.

What topics do you still find confusing? What can you do to get a better grasp on them?

While I generally understand how to use pointers, I found them to be the most confusing topic covered in this course. I don’t fully understand when it is better to use a pointer vs. passing a variable by reference, and what the advantages of using a pointer variable are. I plan to do further research online and by reviewing the textbook to help me firm up my understanding of pointers.

What did you learn this quarter about how taking online courses works for you?

Online courses work well for my personal learning style. Even when I was taking college courses in a traditional classroom environment, I found that I often learned better by reading the textbook on my own than I did by attending lectures. I enjoy being able to move at my own pace.

How can you generalize your experience in this course in a way that will help you in future courses?

I learned that it is very important to stay up on the reading and homework assignments. For the first few weeks of the course, I often left my reading until the day before the homework assignment was due. Later on, I started working on the reading assignments and homework for a short time each day. It’s much easier to stay on top of the workload by putting in an hour or two each day, and I plan to take that approach in future courses.

How has this course helped crystallize your ideas about what a career that involves computer programming might be like?

I really enjoyed this course and I found that I was genuinely excited to learn more about computer programming each week. This course has reaffirmed to me that I do have a passion for computer programming and has strengthened my motivation to put in the work necessary to begin a career in this field.