Kathryn Atherton

ABE 29000 – Dr. Bralts

Homework 10

Graduate School and Lifelong Learning

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Today in class, Dr. Bralts discussed more options for us after graduation besides going straight into the work force: graduate school and lifelong learning. I learned that graduate school, for the most part, is covered by the professor’s grant for the research the student does with the professor. A company or organization will support the tuition that goes along with the research project. Some stereotypes about graduate school were also addressed, such as the fact that the smartest people aren’t the only ones who attend, and that you don’t have to want to be a professor to attend graduate school. I was also very glad to learn about the application process. Though on the surface it sounds very similar to applying to undergraduate programs, I’m sure the process is much more rigorous as students have to balance their college workloads, maintaining relationships with possible professors to do research with, and working on their applications.

I had heard of aspects of lifelong learning before this class, but I had never really heard about the details. I learned about the various exams an engineer can take to ensure that they are a licensed professional engineer, as I learned during the ABET lecture, I learned about the possibility of adding on other degrees, such as an MBA, in order to make myself more appealing to companies, and I also learned about instant learning and IT badges, which I can take to update my skills to the modern needs of companies and the new technologies that are constantly being created.

I know that graduate school is in the future for me, as I want to pursue a career in research. I was very glad to learn about what is coming in the next few years. I hope that, no matter where my career takes me, I will continue to learn more and more about the changing world, whether that be through more college classes, or through a lifelong learning path.