Christopher Smith

Cumulative Reflection

This will be my fourth and last year at Iowa State University. I feel my studies have prepared me to contribute well to a team of engineers in the industry. During the course of my education here, I have taken part in many challenging lab courses. These were in some cases very difficult, and required me to spend a large number of hours working on them with my group mates. This has helped me develop my communications skills, and my ability to work with teammates. It has also helped me practice the design and planning process of a project, and has taught me how to formulate a solution that my group can work towards and achieve.

Towards the beginning of my educational career at Iowa State I took CPRE 281, a hardware design class. My professor for the class was particularly eloquent on the topic of ethical work in Engineering. Engineers contribute to all parts of our society. Sometimes, it can seem quite mundane, but at other times it can be extremely critical work. It might involve the design of a controller used in an airplane, or it might concern the structure of a bridge. We must all nurture an ethical workplace, so that we may encourage ethical work from all the people around us. In this way, we will all do the best work that we can do and truly benefit society.

Ever since my second semester, I have been working part time. While this causes me to be extremely busy, it has really enhanced my learning experience. I have learned so much about teamwork from my jobs, and this has helped me in group projects for my classes. My jobs have also made me realize that the field of engineering never stops moving, and I must develop a habit of lifelong learning if I want to make a career out of it.

My general electives and study abroad program have helped me shape my goals around my major. They have offered me clarity regarding my personal inclinations. And if I were to start my college degree over, I would take all of this information into account. I would focus on software engineering, rather than computer engineering, and would incorporate language and linguistics classes into my curriculum.