

## **General Education Reflection**

Being a computer engineering major I was not exposed to as many different subjects in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a computer science might have been. From what I have gathered computer science major have to take a lot more general education credits than engineers do. However, with the general education requirement I was determined to make the 15 credits count. Early on in my college career I was able to meet most of the general education elective requirements for Computer Engineering. I was able to do so with the help of my high school's AP Spanish Language and Culture class. In addition, I participated in the APEX program here at Iowa State the summer before my freshman year where I was able to take an Economics course that counted towards the General Education requirement. Due to what was mentioned above, I was able to start off fall semester of my freshman year when 9 credits already completed. Taking the Economics course early one helped kick start my desire to dive deeper into the subject which from that point on I chose to take Economics courses for the rest of my general education electives.

In my senior year of high school I decided to take AP Spanish Language and Culture. In my previous years of high school I had also taken Spanish classes, however, I still didn't consider myself proficient in the language. AP Spanish Language and Culture proved to be a very challenging and intense class. By the end of the class I was able to become knowledgeable enough in the language to write essays and understand a good portion of the language in spoken and written word. In addition, due to my efforts on the AP exam for the class I was able to receive 8 ISU credits substituted the space of SPAN 101 and SPAN 102. Learning another language I feel as though my perspective has broadened. As a future engineer I will benefit greatly by having broad perspective specifically by being able to see a problem in many different lights. With regards to culture, taking AP Spanish made me more aware of the various cultures out there and be open and accepting of each.

During my participation of the APEX summer program, which occurred before the start of my freshman year, I was able to take a few classes, including ECON 101. In high school I had previously taken an Economics course, however, after taking ECON 101 I knew I wanted to learn much more about the subject. It was then that I decided to take the required 300 level or above general education classes in the area of Economics. In fall semester of my junior year I took my next Economics course ECON 332: Cooperatives. In this class I receive in depth knowledge about cooperatives with an economics focus. It was important information that I gained from the class and it proved practical as the following semester I ended up working for a cooperative.

Although as a computer engineer I am only required to take 15 credits of general education electives, I feel that those credits are important and serve the purpose of making me a better-rounded engineer. Having credits from my high school AP class to fill half of the required classes for my general education requirements allowed me to take more classes in my area of study while still letting me meet the requirements in an 8 semester time span.