CWI Alumnus – Ashton Seyd

Ashton Seyd is a graduate from our Computer Science program at the College of Western Idaho (CWI). With a passion for computer science, he completed two associate degrees, both with high regards. Here is a look into his thoughts on CWI's Computer Science program.

Why did you choose CWI to start computer science?

I chose to pursue my education at CWI because it offers a great value. Per credits tuition is less than half of any other local institution. Originally planning on a degree in electrical engineering, I changed course to computer science after taking Computer Science 1. Working with Professor Sevigny reignited a passion for computer science I've had since childhood. I am one to see things through, so I completed my CS A.S. and S.T.E.M. AS at CWI, both magna cum laude.

What was your favorite project that you worked on?

My favorite project in the computer science courses at CWI, were when we worked with the subscriber pattern and completed the 'RPG On Watch' assignment. This project encompassed all of the pillars of object-oriented language: encapsulation, polymorphism, inheritance, and abstraction. It is also the project which most closely reflects a server/client setup which I am currently learning more about at BSU in their Distributed Systems class.

How did your computer science classes compare to other CWI classes?

The computer science classes at CWI are absolutely superb. Not only is Professor Sevigny's passion for the subject tangible but his high personal standards translate into high quality, effective instruction for the students who come prepared to learn. I've pair-programmed with classmates at BSU and the quality, at this level, coming out of CWI is unparalleled.

What would you recommend students do to be prepared to take computer science?

I would recommend that students who want to be successful in computer science check their suppositions at the door. Listen to and absorb everything Professor Sevigny teaches because you'll find that without telling you he is inherently teaching you to produce high quality code. You should also make sure that, if you plan to pursue a bachelor's, you look at the required courses early and plan on taking prerequisites accordingly. For instance, Discrete Math is a pre-requisite to Data Structures at BSU, and if transfer students fail to take it, their graduation could be delayed by as much as a year—a high price for failing to plan.

Where are you now?

Right now, I am at Boise State University pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a cyber-security emphasis and finishing my junior year with above a 3.75 GPA.

How did this school prepare you for pursuing your bachelor's degree?

CWI prepared me for my bachelor's degree by providing a solid foundation of both general and field specific concepts. The coursework is challenging but the professors are always available to help students *learn* the material; not just pass the course.