

**CprE 4940 – General Education Report**

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General education classes (GenEd) provide a unique learning angle as an engineer. Although they are not as technical and are usually not as challenging, these classes are still important for looking at engineering problems from a different perspective.

An example of a GenEd class that shaped my thinking is Architecture 321: Intro to the History of the American City. In this class, we learn how the city evolved throughout the decades and the challenges, solutions, or harm that arose. One thing that stuck with me is understanding community needs. We learned how many Black families were given unfair opportunities because of their skin color. Years later, the government tried to help with public housing. But these buildings were unmanaged and quickly became run-down. This made me think of engineering problems differently because we need to look at the long-term effects of our “solutions,” otherwise, that solution can have more negative outcomes.

Another class that made me look at engineering with a new perspective was Intro to Anthropology. In this class, we learned about different cultures around the world and how they view things differently from I would. This can help shape my thinking because one thing I do might have a different reaction to people in the United States than in other places in the world.

My speech class is one that helps me with my soft skills, which will definitely be useful in my career. In that class, I learned how to design and present effective slide shows and how to speak properly in front of a crowd. Although this isn't a technical skill required for a career, it is a skill most employers will want and will help me explain information as an engineer.

GenEd classes can be just as useful as technical classes if taken with the right perspective and applied to real-world problems that you are faced with.