

General Education Reflection

General Education courses have been essential in developing my ability to approach engineering challenges by fostering my creativity, perspective and professionalism. These courses have allowed me to take my problem-solving skills beyond just technical knowledge by teaching me to view challenges from multiple angles.

Learning beyond the technical aspects is crucial in problem-solving. For example, Critical Thinking and Communication taught me how to evaluate complex problems methodically. Furthermore, this course honed my ability to articulate ideas clearly in both written and spoken formats. These skills are vital in engineering and in the workplace. There, I must be able to explain my methodology step by step and justify the conclusions I have drawn. This course prepared me to answer technical questions with clarity and confidence.

Similarly, Introduction to Psychology showed me that human behavior and emotion have a lot of effect on the thought and decision-making process. Additionally, every engineering decision has a direct impact on people, behaviors, and attitudes. Understanding psychological principles allows me to better consider the human impact of my engineering decisions, ensuring they are user centered.

Often, there is more to a problem than just the technical calculation. Fundamentals of Public Speaking helped me recognize the importance of clear and ethical communication when addressing complex issues. It prepared me for high-pressure speaking situations, such as my recent internship where I presented my summer accomplishments to a majority

of the Tech Department. The lessons learned from this course enabled me to present my work in a clear, professional, and confident manner.

Lastly, bilingualism enhances workplace relations in any setting. My general education coursework in Spanish has greatly expanded my ability to communicate with others, allowing me to network with a more global market. Navigating this second language has also sharpened my cognitive flexibility, allowing me to approach problems with a more open mind. This background in Spanish ensures I can bridge language gaps that engineering skills alone cannot.

Collectively, my time in general education courses has aided my transition from a student into an engineering professional. Technical coursework provided the necessary tools for completing tasks and doing the job, but these courses provide the skills that are necessary away from the computer. By fostering empathy, clear communication, critical thinking and bilingualism, my general education coursework has ensured that I can tackle complex engineering challenges from multiple perspectives.