Sai Gatram

ECS 1200.024

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1) As of now, I am currently in my first semester of my Computer science degree plan. The computer science degree plan consists of 4 sections, major preparatory courses, major core requirements, remaining core curriculum, and electives. The major preparatory classes include classes such as, calculus, physics, and basic computer science. The major core classes are classes geared towards the computer science degree such as, computer architecture, automata theory, operating systems, etc. The remaining core curriculum and electives are classes such as rhetoric, history, and government. These classes are mandatory in order to make well rounded students and adults. This is all for my major; however, I am also choosing to minor in business administration. This would involve taking 18 credit hours in upper level classes, which consists of classes such as organizational behavior, business communication, principles of marketing, and introduction to management information systems.

A computer science degree is no easy degree, and I know that. Although it is hard, my reasons for wanting to become a computer scientist, far outweigh the time and effort that will go into my education. My reasoning behind computer science include the stable industry, the really good pay, and the fact that I enjoy coding. Computer science was not only the best degree fit for my hobbies, it was the best degree to pick in today’s economy.

I have not always wanted to major in computer science though. Before I decided to major in computer science, I wanted to become a doctor. However after careful thought, I decided that I didn’t want to deal with the unruly hours, the college debt, and the stress. Although I did enjoy the aspect of directly helping and saving lives, I decided that the interest in helping people was not enough to justify a medical degree. After choosing computer science, I can honestly say that this major is the major for me. Not only does computer science make me happy, it gives me stability, a thing many people do not think of.

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| Introduction to engineering and computer science – **ECS 1200**  Programming Fundamentals -- **CS 1336.003**  Integral Calculus -- **MATH 2414.701**  Rhetoric -- **RHET 1302.020**  Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern -- **AHST 1304.001** | Mechanics **– PHYS 2325**  Computer science 1 – **CS 1337**  American National Government – **GOVT 2305**  Philosophy – **PHIL 1301**  Organizational Behavior -- **OBHR 3310** |
| Electromagnetism and waves – **PHYS 2326**  Computer science 2 – **CS 2336**  Discrete Math 1 – **CS 2305**  Us history-survey from civil war – **HIST 1302**  Principles of Marketing -- **MKT 3300** | Discrete Math 2 **– CS 3341**  Computer Architecture – **CS 3340**  Business Communication -- **BCOM 3310**  State and Local government – **GOVT 2306**  Advanced Java-- **CS 4336\*** |
| Probability and Statistics in CS – **CS 3341**  Algorithm Analysis and Data structures – **CS 3345**  C/C++ programming in UNIX – **CS 3376**  Linear Algebra – **MATH 2418**  Introduction to Management Information Systems – **MIS 3300** | Software Engineering – **CS 3354**  Organization of Programming language – **CS 4337**  Digital Logic and computer Design **– Cs 4341**  Professional and technical Communications –**ECS 4141**  Data and Applications Security -- **CS4389 \***  Science Elective – **Talk to advisor\*** |
| Automata Theory – **CS 4384**  Data and Applications Security -- **CS 4389\*** Computer and Network Security -- **CS 4393 \*** | Computer science project – **CS 4485**  Software Project Planning and Management --**SE 4381\*** |

3) In its essence, computer science is the science of using technology in order to solve problems. This involves writing software which helps things run more efficiently. A computer science degree can get you into many disciplines such as technical analyst, web engineer, software engineer, or even an entrepreneur. These functions don’t necessarily have to be writing just code; even though a large part of the job is writing code. A computer science degree is a very versatile degree that is very beneficial in today’s society. In addition, the computer science industry is currently booming. Job offers are everywhere and knowledge is being spread. Consequently, the industry is always changing also. This means that in order to maintain your standing, you must adapt to the constantly changing environment.

Just like every other industry, networking is one of the most important things you can do. That is why building relationships is very important in your career. A great way I am building these relationships is by communicating with other people. As a member of AIESEC, (It’s not an acronym) It is part of my job to communicate with actual people in industries. Essentially, I work in business to business sales where my main objective is to mediate the process for bringing an international employee to the United States. This involves a lot of back and forth with the employers which is a great way to establish a relationship.

Life doesn’t always go the way you want to go. As you progress through life, you will eventually face a system that really doesn’t work. I have faced a few of these in my life. My programming teacher in high school was the perfect example for this. The best way to face these kinds of situations is to take action. The first thing that needs to happen is to identify the problem. After identifying the problem, take action. For class related activities, this can involve going to a professor, asking friends for help, or even self-studying. However not all inflexible systems are in school. For systems outside of school, the same basic concept still applies. The main thing is all about adapting to the surroundings. By adapting, you can get the most of the system by making it work towards your benefit rather than fighting the system.

My current time management skills are fairly decent. Although I don’t have perfect time management, my time management skills are at least existent. Whenever I have work, I know that I have to dedicate my time and effort in order to finish this. Basically, my priorities are in the right place, but my time management skills can be improved. However, ever since the beginning of college, my skills have gotten a lot better. This mainly stems from the fact that my time management skills in high school were non-existent. Throughout college, I will minimize the distractions I have while studying, in order to get the perfect studying environment.

In my opinion, I do not have trouble setting priorities. I have a clear set of priorities which seem to be working very well so far. As a college student, my priorities are obviously my education. Everything after that is all up to the significance of the activity. However, I do recognize that as time progresses, my priorities will change along with my personality.

My study skills and habits are very dependent by class. Since every class cannot be treated the same, my habits change for each class. Currently, I think I have a good system for each class which seems to be working very well. For the homework intensive classes such as calculus, I have a great study group. For classes that “teach and test”, I tend to have designated study times so I have a clear idea of what I know and what I don’t. This creates a system where I can easily tell what I have to do and what I have already done.

My extracurricular activities are dominated with my involvement in AIESEC (It’s not an acronym). AIESEC is a student run organization specializes in exchange. We do this by bringing people from around the world in order to work at American companies. We also send people around the world for work and service. AIESEC puts me in direct communication with the HR departments of many companies and it allows me to hone my leadership and communication skills.

In addition to my computer science knowledge, I bring a lot to the strengths to the table. I would like to think that my communication skills are respectable. This is a vital thing to have in the industry because of the abundance of group projects. Consequently, my ability to work in groups is very decent. Since all of my work in the industry will be in a group, this strength is one that is very valuable. In addition I would like to consider myself a good student that have a very good knowledge of the things related to computer science.

4) Design Your Process Part 3

It has already been established that relationships are essential for every college graduate. I will make these relationships through my extra-curricular activities. My way of making reliable relationships would be to go through AIESEC (It’s not an acronym). AIESEC puts me in direct contact with people who make the decisions in companies. This is because one of the major things I do in AIESEC is facilitate foreign exchange. This facilitation process is a very long process that requires hours of communication between both parties. In addition, after the official exchange in done, I have to follow up and check on the status of both the employer and the exchange employee. This is a great way for me to meet employers in companies such as Siemens, Texas Instruments, etc. However this isn’t all I will do. Most of my friends I make in college, are part of my network. Most of my friends that I will make will be successful and as long as they still like me after we graduate, they will still be part of my network.

My time management skills as of now, definitely need some change. While I do set aside time to work on specific tasks, sometimes I slack off. Basically, I slack off unless the assignment is due the next day. I would combat this by actually doing the work that I have reserved for that time. This not only makes sure that I am productive but also that I am planned. This is the biggest problem that I face. Once this is solved, I would have no problem splitting my time for all my other activities.

My list of priorities hasn’t changed much for many years now. However sometimes this list is what causes unprecedented consequences. Since my highest priority is my education, I always put school first. While this is a good thing, sometimes I take it too seriously. Rather than split my time and work effectively, I usually do all the work in the span of many hours. This often leaves me burnt out for the rest of the day. I will combat this by setting a higher priority on my mental health and enjoyment. Essentially, rather than work 4 hours in a row, I will take a 15 minute break for every hour of work. This not only will make me more productive, but also happier.

One of the biggest benefits of living in the dorm is how easy it is to form study groups. While study groups are very beneficial to understanding material well, they can sometimes get on very long tangents. This is the biggest change I would make to my study habits. While the study group does get a considerable amount of work done, it can get a lot more done. By cutting down on the amount of distractions that we face, we can effectively make ourselves more productive. Basically from now on, I will make sure we are focused on the task at hand, and whenever we stray off, I will bring us back on track.

Being a member of AIESEC has been a very rewarding experience. As a member of the business to business sales group, also known as ICX, I have learned a lot. My specific task in ICX is to narrow down the very broad list of companies in Dallas to a specific list of clients. This means talking directly to the human relations departments of many companies and persuading them to work with us. For the future, I am planning on applying for the executive board for AIESEC. This would make me a leader for my specific function, which would be ICX. I would oversee all the tasks that go in ICX while aiding cooperation between the other functions.

5) My dad is a senior software engineer at Fidelity Investments. At Fidelity they use a lot of the agile methodology. This agile methodology creates many groups such as development, quality assurance, system analyst, business analyst, etc. These groups all have different functions that all go towards the same goal. The business analyst tells the programmers what needs to be added from a business perspective. The system analyst looks at the business requirements and then figures out what needs to be done. This then gets transferred to the developers which develop the requirements given to them. This gets deployed and then tested by quality assurance. While this is a very general summary of the functions, many companies have similar formats.

The agile process is a very interactive process. The agile process makes sure everyone is on the same level. This process involves daily “stand-up” meetings which notifies everyone on the current status of the project. It also lays out what needs to be done and who need to do it. The work usually consists of enhancements or adding new functionality to the system. This involves 3 tiers which include backend (oracle, MySQL), middle (java, .net framework), and front end (html 5, JavaScript, css3). This interview with my dad was very eye-opening. It felt good to know that the material that we were learning in ECS was being applied in the real world. Also the interview showed the importance of group work. Since the majority of work is group work, collaboration plays a large part in the industry.