**CSC431 Individual Course Reflection**

Gabriel Huang, University of Miami

Throughout CSC431: Introduction to Software Engineering, I have gained experience in software engineering principles, which was my primary goal with taking this class. This includes both technical and interpersonal skills that will be useful in the industry, but the number one thing that was instilled in me was that all these tools are created with one word in mind: Communication. For example, one of the most challenging parts of this course was learning how to use UML diagramming. The diagrams, although tricky to understand at first for me, I now understand are key to being able to communicate effectively with technical and non-technical stakeholders. The ability to visually represent complex systems makes sure that all parties, regardless of their technical expertise, can understand and contribute to the project's development. Another area of knowledge that this course filled was in software engineering methodologies, covering various formal and agile methods. Learning about these will help me be better adaptive during work in the field and perform better during interviews when I am asked about these methodologies. Once again, that boils down to communication: the ability to effectively communicate within a software engineering team in order to most efficiently create a system.

The practical experience gained through my final project (the Intellicup project) was definitely a valuable addition in understanding the real-world application of these skills. Working within a team to imagine a larger system was stressful at times, but I came out better for it.