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CprE 494

General Education Reflection

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Throughout my journey at Iowa State, I not only got the privilege of an amazing curriculum of classes for my major, computer engineering, but I also got the opportunity to learn about many other important subjects in the world.

The first general education course I completed during my journey at Iowa State was ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics. This course gave me a great foundation in many topics that will be relevant to my life related to financial management and responsibility. Topics include scarcity, opportunity cost, market structures, pricing, consumer and producer behavior, and more. I have used and will continue to use what I have learned from the class to make better-informed financial decisions. One way this knowledge helps me with engineering projects is when trying to evaluate components, especially when, as a student, pricing is a big factor. Being able to identify the best solution within my budget makes my engineering projects even better.

One general education class I thoroughly enjoyed was AGGRON 342: World Food Issues. This class gave me an in-depth look into issues like food insecurity, both near my own school and across the globe. The class explored ways to help people at Iowa State, such as local food pantries or meal swipe donation programs. The class also covered food issues that affected multiple continents. One such issue is cocoa sourcing for chocolate. Unfortunately, not all cocoa

suppliers are ethical, but to combat that there are certifications such as Fair Trade Certified that help the consumer support companies that ensure workers are paid livable wages and have safe working conditions. This relates to my engineering decisions by helping me to empathize with others, as well as making sure to consider the ethics of my own work and the ethics of any suppliers I choose.

Additionally, I got the chance to learn about different people and places across the world through the completion of my international perspectives requirements. In the course INTST 235: Introduction to International Studies, I was able to learn about many different countries' cultures and lifestyles. In particular, the course covered how different geographic, cultural, economic, political, and other characteristics affect relationships and shape globalization. These topics helped me to empathize with different cultures and issues across the world. The learning translates to a deeper understanding and consideration of new aspects when analyzing a problem in order to look for a solution.

One last requirement I satisfied was my United States Diversity requirement, where I learned about Human Sexuality in HD FS 276. This course gave me the chance to learn about many new topics and viewpoints related to human sexuality. This learning helped me to better empathize with my peers and those around me so that I can be a better groupmate and coworker.

Throughout all my general education classes at Iowa State, I was able to further my understanding of different aspects of the world while complementing my technical engineering knowledge and skills.