

Kevin Nguyen

CprE 494

Spring 2022

### Cumulative Reflection

My name is Kevin Nguyen, and I am a computer engineering student here at Iowa State University. I found my passion by doing FIRST robotics in high school. That allowed me to work robotic challenges and I was able to venture into the tech space. When deciding to attend Iowa State, I declared my major as a mechanical engineer because of my interest in robotic systems. At first, I felt mechanical engineering was what I wanted for my education. I then was met with mathematical challenges in Calculus and Physics. This made me realize that I don't think I can follow through with Mechanical engineering. So I decided to go to something similar, computer engineering. Computers are a mixture with programming and hardware systems. So far, I enjoy being a computer engineer and I have not looked back.

My hardest class I've taken as a CprE 381 major would be Computer Organization and Assembly Level Programming (CprE 381). In this course, we were challenged multiple times to solve complex engineering problems in a coding language with which I was not familiar. I would often attend these help hours provided by the class in order to resolve issues I was having with the projects.

Iowa State provides students with a diverse set of classes for their major, Software Development Practices (ComS 309) presented me with a new environment, and I needed to learn how to adapt. This course's work consisted of a single project assignment which was to be designed and developed by a team of people I had never met before. To solve our engineering problem, I had to master effective software development practices for a group of developers,

such as Agile. Discovering how to work with Agile was a big learning experience, and I had to make changes to how I would normally go about developing software on my own in order to accomplish our team goal.

Challenging engineering problems are a core piece of the college of engineering curriculum at Iowa State. Having the opportunity to learn and work with fellow students and professors has changed the way I approach problems in my life. These skills have also carried into the three internships I have had during my time at Iowa State, allowing me to continue practicing and improving the skills I learned in the classroom.