**CSE 310—Applied Programming**

**Soft Skills – Practice**

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***Game Framework Week***

***“The First 20 Hours***

***How to learn anything Assignment!”***

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After watching the video “The First 20 Hours – How to Learn Anything”, ponder and then answer the following two questions (minimum 100 words for each question).

**Question 1 – What does it mean to learn enough to self-correct when learning software technologies? Consider what ways you might be practicing software incorrectly. How can you change your approach?**

Learning enough to self-correct when learning software technologies means acquiring a foundational understanding and practical knowledge to identify and rectify mistakes independently. This concept is essential because it enables continuous improvement and refinement of skills without constant external guidance. In software development, this might involve understanding core programming principles, common algorithms, and best practices in coding. For instance, recognizing patterns of bugs, understanding error messages, and knowing how to debug effectively are crucial aspects of self-correction at least for me anyways. I might be incorrectly approaching software development by overly relying on tutorials and trying to learn from to many places, not knowing for sure if they are the best places to learn from. I think that for me to change this approach, I can actively engage more with the material I know to be most effective and keep researching until I find appropriate learning that fits my personal style of learning. Self-correcting is a process that each person has to find there own way to do correctly for themselves.

**Question 2 – What barriers are in your way to prevent practicing consistently (our class requires 24 hours every two weeks)? What can you do to remove some of those barriers?**

One significant barrier is trials, major trials in my life with family. Some I can’t avoid but sometimes I have to do school late at night or secretly so that no one gets in the way. If people think I am napping behind a closed or locked door , I can get stuff done. If the trial is out of my control I usually find that homework and classes and daily practice go right out the door for days due to my emotional strength being zapped from the issue at hand, but I know that as soon as I have rested and put a new schedule together that I must get right back up and hurry to catch up and move forward. Being educated is my dream, one that I used to think I wasn’t smart enough to do at a University level, I lived my life thinking I was just an afterthought in the eternal scheme of things. My mother always pushed my brothers and my other sisters but me it was like I just wasn’t good enough to go to school and I would always be a failure in life. I have worked hard and strived and strived to be a better and more educated person, I fail a lot, but I keep getting back up and trying to continue. I may never get my dream of holding a degree, but no one can say they tried as hard as me to try to get there. I have spent so much time, money and effort and maybe I’ll be 114 years old when or if it happens, but I want it, and if I could get it sooner than later, I could get my kids and me out of the poverty that we have lived in for so long. I know time is of the essence as I am older, but I really need this.

Another significant barrier to consistent practice is time management. Balancing coursework, motherhood, a home even if it’s a broken up shack. Procrastination and distractions of family and kids or household chores/problems can also impede my need for practice. The fear of failure or frustration during the initial stages of learning a new technology can demotivate me also. To overcome this I can implement several strategies, creating a structured schedule that allocates specific times for practice can help ensure regularity. Using tools like calendars or task management apps can also assist me in organizing and prioritizing tasks effectively. Minimizing distractions by setting up a dedicated workspace, using website blockers during practice sessions and putting away my phone so family cannot call me. I would like to achieve the goal of practicing my coding skills at least 5 hours a day and getting to an advanced level with three of the programming languages, learning GitHub thoroughly, and finishing a textbook on learning logic and doing a math series review in classwork.