Lizzie Emch

ISAT 340 Final Narrative

Coming into this class, I had some expectations. After taking ISAT 252 in the spring, I was interested to see where this course would take me. In ISAT 252, I didn’t really do as much coding as I wanted to, but I told myself that in the fall I would step it up and be more involved in ISAT 340. So that is what I did. I participated a lot more in the group environment, learned a lot of code for the front and back end, and overall made a good effort. I remember in high school when I took AP computer science and absolutely hated it. I told myself I would never code again. It is interesting to see where life takes you sometimes. Now I am also going to double concentrate in IKM and Environment, which Lizzie a year ago would never think of.

My learning goals in the class was to become proficient in the overall process of app development. I definitely did not think I would be able to do this, but with the help of the group I was in, I was able to understand many components. One thing I did not imagine completing a year ago today was developing an app. I can confidently say that I have learned how to develop an app. Another learning goal I had in all of my classes was taking a lot of time outside of class to understand concepts and other components. In the beginning of the semester I did that a lot, but unfortunately, as the semester concluded, I had less and less time to work on some concepts outside of class, besides assignments. I was able to complete all of the assignments necessary for this course, too, which was a big goal of mine.

I feel like I fulfilled a lot this semester. I can now code using these programs: my SQL, XAMPP, and Vue.js. Along with the technical skills of app development, my team and I created an initial app pitch, social context analysis, app mockups, and app user personas. Completing all of these different features of developing an application gave me an understanding that there is a lot more to consider besides coding the app itself. Something else this course helped me are soft skills. These skills include communication and working with a team. Having these soft skills will help me a lot in future courses and future careers. Some tutorials I used to learn my coding include vue.js, freecodecamp, LinkedIn learning, and a ton of YouTube videos. Outside of class, I feel like I spent around 2-4 hours a week developing all of the app components. This is exponentially better than last semester and I am very happy I put that much time in this course because the results were very rewarding. I did have a heavy workload with four other classes, TA’d for two courses, and was in exec for two organizations, but my time management was a lot better this year. I think this is also because I got used to the whole “online class environment”. My goals from the beginning of the of the semester did not really shift to the end of the semester, except for using my free time with learning more concepts.

I have overall felt extremely successful in this course. Being able to present first and feeling confident throughout the whole presentation was a huge success. Another success I had include being able to code in visual code studio through vue.js. In the beginning of the semester, I did not think I would be able to do this at the extent I can now.

I think the biggest area where I failed in this class was at some points I was not motivated in the semester. This happens to everyone at some point in the semester and this is something I continually want to work on. Other than that, I was extremely happy and achieved all of my goals. What I learned from this failure is to continue making a schedule for myself, give myself enough time to work on things, and to treat myself whenever I have successes in not only this course, but others

JMU’s mission statement, to make "educated and enlightened citizens who lead meaningful and productive lives" speaks a lot through all of the ISAT classes I took this semester. I feel a lot more enlightened after this semester. From the development of COVID-19, I have learned more about time management and how to deal with it. I have also learned how to stay productive in an online learning situation. I learned about self- drive, especially through this class. Lastly, I learned about community. There is still an online community at JMU and this semester I found a great way to stay connected with everyone and everything.

I am thankful that I have lived safely through this semester, especially through another semester during COVID-19. Even though (mostly) online school had its negatives, I finally decided what concentrations I wanted to do: IKM and Environment. I think I deserve a grade between the B to A range. I had a high drive for this course and I am very much excited for the future IKM courses that are in store for me.