

Cumulative Reflection

SE 494

Larisa Andrews

Through my experience at Iowa State I think they have prepared me to solve engineering problems and understand designs but lacked in ethical implications. There was a big push in several classes (i.e. Com S 230, Com S 311, and CprE 381 to list a few) to solve engineering problems. These classes challenged me and helped me think about problems in new and different ways. I also think the emphasis on the design process was apparent in several classes. I think the least talked about subject was ethical obligations. Although, we have been focusing on them more in Senior Design so maybe I will be more prepared by the end of the year.

Through my classes I have done several things that I think will prepare me for the work industry. Like working in groups, being a mandated leader, and having to read numerous documents about current issues. Through working in groups, I have learned that people are not always easy to work with. Although I already knew that, but there are people you work with better than others. That is why selecting a work environment where you can go and learn is so important. I think my experience here has taught me what kind of environment I work well in. While being a mandatory leader has taught me, being a leader is hard. So, if I have a chance to help my leaders, I should. I think reading about the numerous ethical and logical issues has prepared me to be able to apply the techniques they used to solve problems.

Beyond class I have used Google frequently. For a few assignments I have used google scholar to read scholarly journals or articles to help understand a concept. Overall though I have used documentation for a code language or tool and stack overflow as outside resources.

I think talking to employers at career fairs have taught me that lifelong learning is important. Especially software as a major is constantly changing. While talking to employers at the career fair they will talk about all the things they were learning at Iowa state or their college. It was much different now. So, it is important to keep learning to continue to keep up with an ever-changing technology-based world.

I think through my internships I have learned to take risks. It does not seem like a big deal from a third-person view to ask questions. Although, it is very intimidating. So, taking a risk to ask questions and understand that the person may think you are dumb, you will still be learning. It is more important to undertake that risk to learn more than to worry about what others think.

If I were to do my undergraduate work again, I would take more opportunities to learn. Throughout my college experience I was never a TA, and I did not join any club or the IEEE honor society. I think that although I am fine without these experiences, I would be more developed if I had taken them when they were offered.