***COMMUNICATION***

***COMPUTER SCIENCE CO-OP: REFLECTION #2***

***CSCI 8893 Work Term Course***

The Core Employability Skill and Graduate Attribute of **Communication** requires you to:

Communicate complex computing reasoning, processes, instructions, and solutions effectively to others, including those in the computing community and society at large, through oral, written, and / or electronic communication.

In this reflection, building on Reflection #1, focus specifically on how to best communicate in your workplace. What needs to be said and when does it need to be communicated. What is the best mode of communication given impending timelines, importance, need, and impact?

**Considering your Communication Goal for this work term** *(from Reflection #1), how can you practically apply communication skills in the workplace to achieve this goal?*

I will adjust my language and level of detail depending on the audience. When speaking with military personnel, I will simplify technical jargon and focus on practical applications. With programmers, I will use precise technical terminology to ensure clarity.

**Do you notice a change in your communication style since you started your first work term? What has changed since joining your company? What do you believe has attributed to that change?**

Yes, my communication style has improved since my first work term. I am now more concise, adaptable, and audience-focused, ensuring clarity for both technical and non-technical stakeholders. This change is due to increased exposure to diverse teams and my commitment to my initial communication goal, which has made me more mindful of how I convey information effectively.

**What differences have you experienced when communicating on-line vs in person vs hybrid meetings? What is your preferred meeting style and why? Is one mode more conducive to communication?**

Online, I have to be mindful of multiple interpretations of my messages, so I provide extra description to ensure both the content and tone are clear. In-person communication is beneficial because body language plays a significant role in conveying intent and engagement. In hybrid meetings, I found it challenging—when present in the room, I felt on the spot and uncomfortable, while when attending remotely, I felt detached from the discussion. I prefer in-person meetings because they allow for clearer communication through body language and real-time interaction, reducing misunderstandings. In-person meetings are the most conducive as they provide immediate feedback, better engagement, and clearer communication cues compared to online or hybrid meetings.

***PROBLEM-SOLVING***

The Core Employability Skill and Graduate Attribute of **Problem Solving** requires you to:

* Use appropriate knowledge, skills, background research, and experimentation to identify, investigate, conceptualize, analyze, and solve complex problems to reach substantiated conclusions.
* Design and evaluate solutions for complex open-ended computing problems with appropriate consideration for social, cultural, and economic considerations.
* Recognize that there are often multiple solutions to a presented problem.

**Considering your Problem-Solving Goal for this work term** *(from Reflection #1), how can you practically attain this goal in your final work term?*

To practically attain my problem-solving goal in my final work term, I will break down complex challenges by addressing each component of the technology stack individually. Since technical solutions often require integrating multiple tools and frameworks, I will ensure that each technology functions correctly on its own before combining them incrementally. By systematically validating each piece, I can identify and resolve issues early, making integration smoother and more efficient. Additionally, I will leverage background research, experimentation, and collaboration with colleagues to refine my solutions and adapt to new challenges effectively.

**Are there different styles to problem-solving in different workplace environments? Consider problem solving on-line vs in-person vs hybrid working? What is your preferred working style and why?**

 **Online Work** – At home, work can feel more segmented, allowing me to go at my own pace, even if it's not always in a structured order. I tend to experiment more freely and revisit tasks as needed.

 **In-Person Work** – In the office, I focus on flushing out each step clearly so that if my coworkers need help or if I need assistance, there’s a shared understanding of the technology. This structured approach ensures smoother collaboration.

 **Hybrid Work** – This can be challenging because the mix of remote and in-person communication may lead to gaps in shared understanding, requiring extra effort to stay aligned.

I prefer in-person work because it encourages real-time collaboration and shared problem-solving. Having immediate access to colleagues allows for quicker resolution of issues, fosters teamwork, and ensures that everyone is on the same page when working with complex technologies.

**Have you applied problem-solving skills learned in your studies in your workplace? Please explain.**

The problem-solving skills and approaches I developed during my studies have been invaluable in the workplace. They have helped me break down complex challenges, troubleshoot issues efficiently, and apply structured thinking to technical problems. For example, my foundational understanding of algorithms has allowed me to automate tasks and optimize workflows, improving overall efficiency.

***LIFE-LONG LEARNING***

The Core Employability Skill and Graduate Attribute of **Life-Long Learning** requires you to:

* Continuously invest in learning new computer languages, tools, technologies, techniques, standards, and practices as well as non-technical skills.
* Identify and address educational needs to sufficiently maintain computing competence and contribute to advancement of knowledge.

**My Life-Long Learning Goal is to** *(in approx. 50 words):*

To continuously learn new technologies, tools, and methodologies to stay adaptable in the ever-evolving field of computing. By staying updated with industry trends, refining my technical skills, and expanding my knowledge across different domains, I aim to remain effective, innovative, and capable of solving complex technical challenges.

**As you near the end of your co-op experience and your degree, how do you view life-long learning as it applies to your future career? What does life-long learning look like to you? For you? Please explain.**

Life-long learning means continuously evolving and staying engaged with new advancements in technology rather than becoming stagnant. As I near the end of my co-op experience and degree, I see it as a commitment to always being a student—actively learning new tools, languages, and methodologies to adapt to industry changes. For me, this means seeking out new challenges, staying curious, and refining my problem-solving skills to remain effective and innovative in my career.