General Education Reflection

As a young Grade 7 student, when I wrote my first Java program, I was flabbergasted with the power coding gave an individual. I felt that I could move mountains with my fingertips when I coded. This led me to think about more and more applications of programming in my surroundings. That was when I realized the application of technology was seamless. I had no second thought about what college major I wanted to pursue and now, in my final year of undergraduate studies, I am even more determined of my goal. I want to use my skills, acquired at Iowa State University, to positively impact thousands of lives. I want to write software that positively moves masses, even if it means that I must start my own company or work for an established company to do so. I feel that the best use of one's knowledge and skills is when it is used for others and hence I want to be able to help and give back to the society while at work.

At Iowa State University, I was fortunate enough to have opportunities to take several General Education courses which not only exposed me to non-engineering course work but also helped me to develop a perspective towards my surroundings and build a world view towards current global issues. I took Micro Economics (ECON 101) as my first elective in freshman year and was enlightened by the process of logically breaking down real-life problems and accessing all real-life choices available to oneself. It really gave me a perspective about the various decisions that companies took in regard to their product and the market. It gave a realistic point of view towards the modern-day market and enabled me to think of technology from a market's perspective.

Another enlightening course that I took was Introduction to Psychology (PSYCH 101), where I learned about different aspects of human Psychology and human behavior. The human behavior aspect of the course really drew me to learn more about the impact of technology on human behavior over years. It also helped me to understand the relationship humans share with technology. Furthermore, the course had several interesting research studies to participate in which made me realize about the various research projects going on at the university.

As part if my U.S. Diversity requirement, I took Leadership Styles and Strategies in a Diverse Society (LDST 322). This course was the most interesting General Education Elective that I took. It gave me an understanding of leadership as a process and really made me think about several aspects of leadership. At that time, I was the president of one of the largest student organization at the university and the course helped me correlate the learnings with real-life situations. I learned a lot about diversity in the United States and the problems faced by several minority groups across the nation. I learned proper ways to deal with situations and tackle challenges faced while working in a diverse group. Above all, I learned to respect conflicting ideas and identities, for which I am very thankful to the instructor. I took Human Recourse Management (MGMT 471) as my final elective, in which I learned about recruitment, job descriptions, management of legal issues associated with hiring etc. This really helped me while interviewing with companies and seeking jobs since I knew the HR side of the hiring process.

Most of the General Education Electives I took were based on collaborative learning environment. This gave me plenty experience of working with teams and handling difficulties faced by the team in unity. I got to listen to many diverse perspectives coming from team-members with diverse backgrounds. I felt educated every time I worked in a team. These courses helped me to think about things in a more informed manner and I became a more aware citizen of the world. The courses encouraged me to think about issues that I would not have though of on my own, hence pushing me to apply my skills and

knowledge in areas they were applicable. The courses enabled me to expand my horizon about application of technology and made me a better over individual.