As I near the end of my time at Iowa State University, I am beginning to see just how well this degree program prepared me for the real world. The course work gave us real-world problems to solve with the technical skills we had learned in class. Projects such as the CPR E 288 Mars Rover and the COM S 309 application project provided me with the opportunity to work with a team to solve a difficult task using real technical skills and resources that are available to professional working environments. This has prepared me to go into the professional workforce ready to apply the skills I've learned and learn new skills as needed.

During my internships, I've run into problems and technical issues that I did not have the answer to. To get around these issues I've learned how to conduct learning and research on my own, as well as reach out to my colleagues for guidance. This is a skill I believe will help me throughout the rest of my career, regardless of where my career will take me.

One thing that my time at Iowa State and at my internships has taught me is that there is still a lot I don't know. To try and keep up with the latest technologies, I am always trying to take an online course on Udemy or LinkedIn Learning. The most recent course I have completed was the "Basics of C++" on LinkedIn Learning.

I also hope to remedy my lack of in-depth subject knowledge in computer science topics by completing an online master's degree within the next five years while I am working.

Hopefully, this degree will provide me with more detailed knowledge of the fundamentals of computer science and assist me in my full-time job as a back-end developer. Based on my experience as an undergraduate, I am hoping to take the lessons that I learned with regard to studying, starting my work early, and asking for help when needed in the real world. While Iowa State has taught me a lot, I am excited to see what new things I can learn in the future.