

Last year I found myself between programs as soon as I realized that I wasn't cut out to be an electrical engineer (during the first week of school) and I subsequently tried to take courses that I felt would generally be of benefit to me no matter where I ended up. Among some of the courses I took was a COEN introductory to C++. I ended up joining weeks after the beginning of the semester and quickly found it difficult to keep up with; irrespective of my joining late I felt alienated and like I couldn't turn to anyone for help. Due to this and a combination of other factors, I decided to drop the course.

Many of the concepts I felt unable to fully grasp while I was in COEN feel so much clearer after having been reintroduced to them this semester. I really appreciated the focus on coming to terms with the language itself and how to think within its terms rather than attempting to do both that *and* show how you can use programming to solve problems. We did focus on applications but they never felt like problems which were in need of solutions. It was more like, "here's something you can do". I liked that.

I also feel that this course helped me restrain my approach towards technical problems, in spite of everything I just said about not being required to problem solve. I guess more specifically, the lack of restraint imposed upon me as a student felt conducive to feeling as if I ought to see problems through for longer than I am used to doing. I can be very particular in what I would like to have happen but I can be just as prone to defaulting to a workaround when it doesn't come together right away. Throughout the semester I would sometimes spend days at a time working on the same problem. It didn't always come together but I always felt that I had something to gain from it afterwards, and when it did it felt thoroughly satisfying.