

Over these past four years at Iowa State, completing my Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degree, I have learned much about my future career as a programmer, and myself. Coming in as someone who had little programming experience before college, to now being able to work my way around pretty much any language thrown at me with a little practice, I can say I benefited from my time and have impressed myself more than once. Also, I was given the chance to prove my skills beyond the classroom with the two internship and one co-op, experiences I had.

Throughout my professional and academic work, these things were clear to me: the need to keep learning new skills, having different experiences, and being adaptive to sensitive situations are essential to have life-long success in this industry. You never know when a new job option is going to come up that will put your skills to the test. You never know when a class project is going to really stump you and your group, so you need to know how to research solutions quickly. You never know when your current job needs you to temporarily switch projects mid-way through working on one, and you have to relatively quickly switch your mind fully to that project, but still not forget what you were working on so you can continue working on what you were originally. I believe that my core classes, especially the ones with weekly or bi-weekly labs prepared me for that kind of environment. The engineering market in particular is volatile in the sense the knowledgebase is always changing. There will always be new and better ways to achieve certain tasks or solve problems, and it's up to us as engineers to always stay up to date so we can do our job correctly.