* Personal Essay – How will a Minor in EM set me apart from my peers? Why do I want to pursue a Minor in EM?

The Engineering Management minor will set me apart from my peers in many ways. Throughout my educational career at Drexel and my experience in the co-op program, I realized that there is a disconnect from what we learn and what will help us propel our careers in the engineering field. The skills that we develop in the class are geared toward the hard-technical skills that will allow us to be great at our jobs and solve real world engineering problems. But, I realized through my co-ops that hard skills are great but the soft skills combined with the hard skills is what really progresses our careers. I want to not be able to just solve real work engineering problems but also be at the helm of picking which problems are more vital when engineering our future.

The engineering classes that I have taken so far in my computer engineering curriculum really go hand in hand with what I have learned with the engineering Management courses I have taken. One of the first classes that I had taken was technology innovation management, which was a class that was based on how to plan, lead, and control all the innovation in technology. This class really opened my eyes to how great technologies just are not born from great ideas but also from great leadership. One example that Prof. Ridgley brought up was how Steve Jobs made apple.

While I was on co-op I decided to take, Systems Engineering and Engineering Management Communications courses. My co-op was with DELL/EMC in Menlo Park California the meca for technology. While I was taking these two classes I could really make real world connections to how the material we were learning and my experiences at the company. The communications class was a class I think I could relate to on an everyday basis at work. What you never learn with in engineering degree is how to properly communicate with professionals that our outside of your expertise or just to management. Knowing when to get to the point in some conversations or knowing what to say during meeting or presentations about certain topics really helped me bridge a connection to what I was learning in the class. The systems course was also a great learning opportunity on how to manage a engineering system and its life cycle.

My future educational goals are to complete a master and maybe down the line a MBA. I also was considering the Engineering management cert after I graduate which the engineering management minor will help me get a leg up on. For my masters depending on what path my career takes me I am also considering applying for the MS in cyber security From Drexel. Since my second co-op I have been interested in cyber security and how it is a hot topic in the tech world and Drexel’s MS in cyber security started to appeal to me. With this Engineering management minor this will help obtain those skills I need not only to advance in the engineering field but also help me accomplish my educational goals that will go hand in hand in propelling my career. Through the combination of my experiences and education this program which focusses on the application of engineering principles to the planning and operational management of industrial and manufacturing operations, and prepares individuals to plan and manage such operations.

In all, with this minor I feel as though I will stand out greatly from my peers being. With all that it has to offer it will actually make me a more well-rounded engineer with the soft skills to back up the hard-technical skills. Which will help me pursue a full filling career in not just engineering but also leading the engineers of the future one day.