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Engineering Management Minor Application Paper

The Engineering Management minor will set me apart from my peers in many ways. Throughout my educational career at Drexel University 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 we develop in class are geared toward technical skills that will allow us to solve real world engineering problems. From my co-op experiences, I realized that technical skills are important but the soft skills combined with the technical skills are what really progresses our careers. Not only do I want solve real world engineering problems, but also be a leader in my field.

The engineering classes I have completed in my computer-engineering curriculum go hand in hand with the material learned in the engineering management courses. 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 are just not born from great ideas but also from great leadership. This got me thinking about how I could further enrich my education by taking the engineering management minor.

While I was on my last co-op with Dell EMC, I decided to take, Systems Engineering and Engineering Management Communications courses. As I was taking these two classes, I could make real world connections with the material we were learning in class and my experiences at the company. I could relate to the communications course on everyday basis at work. What you do not learn with an engineering degree is how to properly communicate with professionals that are outside of your expertise. Knowing how to conduct myself in different professional scenarios helped me bridge the connection to what I was learning in the class. The systems course also helped me understand how to design and analyze certain engineering systems. The final paper in the system course was to analyze a fault in an engineering system and how that could have been prevented. This was interesting because I noticed that a lot of the work that we can fail due to due to a lack of proper communication within the development or life cycle, not because there was a fault in the engineering process. Thus, I able to make direct connections to the product that we were developing in the organization. On one project that I dealt with was to try to figure out why certain cables that we manufactured had failed and how to fix the issue. I used my knowledge of the development life cycle to figure out that it was a process issue with how the wires were being soldered together. This helped me figure out a solution and a testing device to fix the process. So being able to use that knowledge that I was learning in the field really made me stand out and want to pursue the minor even more.

Soon, I plan to complete a master’s degree in the engineering field as well as an MBA. I am also considering the Engineering Management Certification after I graduate. My master’s degree will depend on my career path as I am trying to decide between cyber security and software development. Since my second co-op at JP Morgan Chase, I have been interested in cyber security, which really got me interested in furthering my career in computer security. If I pursue the cyber security path, I will be looking to get my masters in computer security at Drexel University. The engineering management minor will help me obtain the skills I need to advance in the engineering field and help me accomplish my educational goals that will further advance my career. The combination of my experiences and education that focusses on taking engineering principles and applying them to real world managerial skills will help shape my education and career path.

In conclusion, with this engineering management minor, I know I will stand out greatly from my peers. With all that it has to offer, it will make me a well-rounded engineer with the soft skills to back up the hard-technical skills. The minor will help me pursue a full filling career in not only engineering, but also in leading the engineers of tomorrow.