Steven Blathras

CS499

Professional Self Assesment

As I reach the end of my Computer Science program, I’ve had the chance to look back on everything I’ve learned and how much I’ve grown, both technically and professionally. Working on the final capstone project and putting together my ePortfolio really brought that growth into focus. It gave me the chance to revisit one of my earlier projects and improve it in ways that show how far I’ve come.

One of the most valuable things I’ve gained from this program is the ability to go through the full software development process—understanding the problem, planning a solution, writing the code, testing it, and making sure it’s presented clearly and professionally. The project I included in my portfolio, which focuses on an animal shelter dashboard using MongoDB, gave me the chance to demonstrate my ability to work across both frontend and backend systems. Updating it to reflect better design, more efficient code, and stronger database structure helped me build a deeper understanding of how to write clean, scalable, and secure applications.

Aside from the technical skills, this program also helped me improve how I communicate my work. Whether it was through code reviews, group projects, or writing documentation, I learned how important it is to explain things clearly—especially to people who may not have a technical background. That’s something I wasn’t as confident in when I first started, but I’ve definitely grown more comfortable with it.

Throughout the program, I’ve gotten much better at solving problems using data structures and algorithms, and I’ve learned how to think through design trade-offs when working on more complex projects. I also gained a stronger awareness of software security—how to avoid common vulnerabilities and design systems that protect user data and privacy.

These experiences have helped me shape clearer goals for my career. I’m aiming for a role in software development, ideally one that lets me work on full-stack applications and continue learning. I really enjoy using tools like Python, JavaScript, and MongoDB, and I’m looking forward to building on that foundation with new skills like cloud computing and DevOps.

Overall, this degree has given me the knowledge, experience, and confidence I need to take the next step in my career. I feel ready to contribute as a developer and excited about where things can go from here.