

## Cumulative Reflection

Over my past three and a half years at Iowa State University I have had the great pleasure to take classes in Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Speech Communications, and even English. In each of these courses I have gained knowledge, discovered new ways to approach problems, or developed as a young professional. I have had opportunities to build systems, and develop projects from the ground up. It has been a truly fascinating experience, and I feel very prepared to enter the workforce.

In classes like COMS 309 & CPrE 491 I have worked with other engineers to develop solutions that have a larger scale than one student could reasonably be expected to complete. This has taught me what I can expect from my peers, and how to communicate and behave professionally. In other classes, I have had the opportunity to work by myself to develop an entire solution from the ground up. This has taught me about a strong work ethic, and the ability to work past roadblocks that seem insurmountable at first glance. In addition, in many of my classes I have learned what it means to be an ethical engineer/professional – and I will carry this mindset forward with me throughout my career.

In some of my project based classes I have faced problem solving tasks that were beyond my knowledge at the time. When I came across these challenges I developed my skills as a researcher, and a solution finder as I perused the internet for help. I have learned that in our current age, there are a lot of technical forums available (such as stack overflow) that make it much easier for lifetime students such as myself to find the information that we need.

Even as I learned each of these things in the classroom, I also took the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom. I spent a year as the President of the Mock Trial team, and I spent a year as the Chief of Staff for GSB. I worked nearly 30 hours per week for almost my entire time at ISU, and through these experiences I learned things that simply could not be taught in the classroom. I learned the importance of seeing a project through to the end, and I learned that people matter, and when you are a leader, you have to make sure that you put the people who follow you first.

Despite learning all of these things, there is one thing I would change if I were entering Iowa State again. I learned very early on that I did not enjoy electrical engineering, or the problems tackled by this field. I started to focus on software engineering classes once I could, but I would have had a better experience overall if I had switched to Software engineering as an official major after my first semester.