

General Elective Reflection

Throughout my time in high school and at Iowa State, I have taken various college classes exploring topics outside of computer engineering and directly related topics and skills. These courses have broadened my understanding of the world around me.

The first general education college-level class I took was Spanish back in high school, which transferred to Elementary Spanish 1 and 2. In these classes, I developed a basic understanding of Spanish in writing, reading, and speaking. Additionally, I learned about the culture and environment of many Spanish-speaking areas. This skill has helped prepare me for the industry, where I need to be able to communicate with people of diverse backgrounds without sharing a common first language. Spanish specifically is a good skill to have some ability in due to its prominence in the world, and as Spanish-speaking portions of the world continue to develop, it will that much more important to be able to communicate. Additionally, I learned about the education problem in some of the less-developed Spanish-speaking areas of the world, given the current technological advancements in remote internet. Education can and should be made more accessible to remote locations of the world to assist in their development.

The next college-level general education class I took in high school was Oral Communication. This class was a high-priority college class for me due to the importance of communicating well with peers, mentors, customers, management, and professors. I learned the most in this class about presenting to groups, which has served me well in both classes and my work experience at Iowa State. These still have and will continue to make me a stronger engineer and problem solver by facilitating teamwork in accomplishing goals.

A general education course I took at Iowa State was History of the American City. Within that course, I learned about the development that led to American Cities as we know them, the problems that started along the way, and how they still affect our modern cities. These are various problems, such as traffic congestion, housing amounts, systematic poverty, etc. These problems are rooted in the origins of cities and made me think about how long my design decision can affect the future.

Throughout college and high school, I have taken several courses outside of engineering, which have provided my understanding and helped me prepare for working in the world.