

General Education Reflection

During my time at Iowa State, I took a variety of highly interesting classes that helped to expand my skill sets beyond what is taught in traditional engineering classes. The general education electives that I took while at Iowa State include: CL ST 369, MGMT 310, HD FS 283, and SPAN 101.

One of the most interesting general education classes I took at Iowa State is CL ST 369. This is a Classical Studies class focused on Ancient Egypt. This class discussed topics relating to the history and culture of Ancient Egypt from the Pre-Dynastic Period to the early Hellenistic and Roman periods. At the end of the semester, I was given a research project to recreate and present a tomb from an assigned period in Ancient Egypt. I was assigned the Third Intermediate Period of Egypt. This class taught me a lot of exciting information regarding the history of Ancient Egypt, how modern media's take on Ancient Egypt isn't always accurate, and how to perform deep historical research and bring it all together to create an original project.

Another general education class I took was HD FS 283 A Human Development and Family Studies class titled: Personal and Family Finance. This class taught me a lot of essential personal finance skills relating to taxes, insurance, budgeting, credit, investing, and more. I think this class was extremely beneficial to me and should be required for every student at Iowa State. I learned critical real-world skills that allow me to make informed financial decisions and calculations for myself both now and in the future.

One of the more hands-on general education classes I took was MGMT 310. A management class titled: Entrepreneurship and Innovation. This class teaches some of the fundamental theories and practices behind starting a business. For the class, we were put into groups where we came up with an idea for a new business venture and presented it to the rest of the class. My group's business idea was called Access Tree: A Social Media Platform for Older Adults. This project helped me understand the budgeting, research, and theory of starting a business from scratch. This class also improved my ability to collaborate with a group of people who do not share the same background as me, as the people in my group were not from the engineering college.

As the world increasingly becomes more connected, I believe it's more important than ever to learn how to communicate with cultures around the world. This is the reason I took SPAN 101: An introductory Spanish course. In this class, I learned about the language and culture related to Spanish. This class gave me the fundamental knowledge needed to communicate basic Spanish effectively with other people. I was able to go from knowing virtually nothing about the Spanish language to hold a conversation with fellow classmates. This was probably my favorite general education class I took at Iowa State.

Overall I believe that the general education electives I took while at Iowa State have contributed greatly to my knowledge in various aspects of life both in and outside of engineering. My choice of general education courses improved my soft skills when working in groups, presenting projects, and speaking with people from different cultures. On the other hand, I gained many Hard skills as well, ranging from doing historical research, business, and marketing research, along with skills essential for financial calculations.

I can apply the skills I've developed from the general education classes I've taken to my Cybersecurity Engineering career as they allow me to see projects through a different lens. For example, now I can see what's important from a business owner's perspective thanks to MGMT 310. The general education courses at Iowa State have been a massive part of my growth as an engineer.