**Professional Self-Assessment**

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Throughout my computer science program, I completed all coursework online while working full-time - a challenge that required dedication, time management, and perseverance. Balancing a demanding job with academic deadlines wasn’t easy. However, it allowed me to find passion in combining the current industry in which I am employed and the new industry (tech industry) I hope to join. The combination of projects and academic rigor helped me build technical skills and a clear professional identity, while also helping me find a new passion. It also gave me the confidence to pursue a career in data science within the pharmaceutical industry.

One of the most meaningful parts of the program was working in team settings that reflected real-world software development. In classes like Software Engineering and Capstone, I collaborated with agile teams to design and build applications from the ground up. These experiences taught me how to divide responsibilities, work through disagreements, and contribute to code that fits into a larger project—skills that I know are essential in any software engineering job.

Another central growth area for me was communicating clearly with technical and non-technical audiences. Whether writing design plans, giving presentations, or participating in peer code reviews, I learned how to explain complex ideas in a way others could understand.

Courses in data structures and algorithms helped sharpen my approach to problem-solving. I built custom data structures like hash maps and balanced trees and optimized code for performance. These lessons now guide me when debugging or working on system design challenges.

My software engineering and database classes also gave me a strong understanding of the whole development lifecycle. I learned how to use version control, write documentation, and integrate relational and NoSQL databases into projects. Managing deadlines and deliverables became second nature, and I realized how important it is to stay organized and accountable in fast-paced environments.

Cybersecurity courses improved my education by teaching me how to think about software from a risk and safety perspective. Topics like encryption, authentication, and threat modeling taught me how to build more secure, resilient systems—something that’s only becoming more important as technology continues to touch every part of our lives.

These experiences have shaped my thinking about teamwork, responsible development, and ongoing learning. They’ve helped me collaborate with internal teams at my current company to improve our IT management system, scientific databases, and sales databases. While combining my science and computer science knowledge, I know I can build meaningful, secure, and efficient technology and keep growing as a professional.