

Gen ED Reflection Assignment

I always wanted my university experience to as well rounded as it was when I was in school. In school, I was involved in music, debate, and sports. I was nervous about joining a university because the stress and pressure of engineering could take all my other hobbies away from me. I thought I would not have the time to pursue my interests and lose them along the way. However, in my first semester, I got to know that I have to take 15 credits of general education courses. I wasn't sure what that meant until I looked at the list of possible courses I was allowed to take. It was incredible, because not only could I keep the old hobbies I had, but also try things I have never tried before.

I started by taking one leadership classes COMST 101. I learnt that there is no correct way of leading a group, rather it depends on the people you are leading. Every group is different, some require more motivation than others. The different theories that I learnt in this class, for example, theory X, theory Y, servant leadership, etc were very useful for me. I applied different theories in different group projects that I did and I could definitely see that my bonding with my peers got better. Most engineering classes have group projects; hence, these leadership classes were essential for me to learn how to be a more effective leader. However, the impact of these classes was not only limited to my engineering class projects, I used these strategies while doing a part time job at StockChamp, a startup company where I lead the technical development of making an IOS and a Node JS application and helped secure the first round of investments.

After working in StockChamp, I got interested in startups and decided to learn more about entrepreneurship. Hence, I took ECON 102. I really enjoyed learning the economics, development, and impact of small businesses on the industries in the class. That prompted me to take up an entrepreneurship minor. With a sound knowledge of business, I came up with an idea to start my own company which is a part of ISU Start up factory. My company is a tech company which focuses on building an AR set for product designers. AR is a very upcoming industry with a lot of big companies investing in this technology. I think that my business and engineering skills will definitely help me create a company that makes innovation and creativity its priority while providing cutting edge technology to its customers.

Also, now a day's society has been facing a lot of racism issues that are based on religious biased opinion of a group of people towards another group of people. This problem arises because people have not been educated about different types of religion and their ideologies and they do not wish to communicate because of their ignorance. I believe taking classes like Religion 205 and 210 combined with COMST 101 helped understand about different religions and their ideologies. This will help to easily communicate and connect with people from different background and culture.

At the end of the day, all my general education courses from management and leadership have been enlightening in one way or the other. I have learnt more than I signed up for. I am more knowledgeable on various social and economic issues, I have knowledge to not only build a product but also to make it for the people it is meant for and mostly importantly, I know how to

motivate my team to accomplish their best. Taking these gen-ed's has brought the best in me and hence evolved me as an engineer.