I came to Iowa State in Fall of 2014 and I don't know how come 4 years passes so quickly. I started my journey as a software engineer. I have learnt a lot in the last four years, not only in terms of engineering but also life. Working on countless labs, projects, home works, and internships has been truly satisfying experience.

All the classes I took as a part of my degree have taught me some unique skills. CPRE 281 was especially interesting because learnt the basics of digital computers, and from that class I decided I want to do my emphasis in computers. Since them I have taken one graduate level class, HCI 557 which taught me how the graphics programming works and how can we create interactive world of computers with lighting, texture and object modelling. My classes in software engineering like Coms 228, Coms 309 and SE 339 helped me learn about data structures, Software development and management and Software Architecture. Apart from the technical aspects of these classes, I also learnt how can I apply these in successful completion of my senior design project which is going on right now. Professors have not only been focused on making us better engineers but also socially aware engineers. Various ethical and social issues are discussed in classes and their potential solutions.

An essential part of classes is group projects, labs, and homework assignments. Working in teams has prepared me to work in actual work settings outside of a classroom in the industry. Having done 2 internships, I can definitely say that I would not have been as successful at them if I had not done as many group projects. It is very easy to work on your own and not ask anyone for their ideas, it is much harder to take everyone into consideration and learn from their perspective and ISU has taught me how to do that. Working in teams helped me improve my communication skills which were not very good to begin with. I have come a long way in being able to express my ideas clearly and concisely. Learning good communication skills – verbal and written – was of paramount importance as it made me at doing my work and helped me hone skills better and leverage help at any point I needed. Through these experiences I intend to break the belief system and be better at engineering.

My friends and I prefer to study together either in TLA or the library. TLA and senior design lab are an engineer's haven. I have spent a lot of days and nights completing my projects with my teammates. Iowa State provides amazing learning resources like Lynda.com and intra library loan because they understand that not everything can be learnt in a classroom.

Outside of the classroom, I participated in a few clubs to expand my horizon further. I was a part of ISU computer science learning community where I worked on building small projects which laid my foundation for software engineering. Although at the time I was not very knowledgeable, I learnt more than I could've with any book or classes. The student organizations at ISU make the wholesome and all-round learning experience. I also took part in various other activities like HACK ISU and Cyber Defense Competition.

If I could do my engineering degree all over again I would spend more time getting hands on experience with more projects and personal experience. I would also take more time to participate in more student organizations and volunteer more.

At the end of the day, I can say that ISU has made a well-rounded and confident engineer who is ready to go out in the world and succeed. I am a better individual and a better team player than I ever was when I first stepped into this university.