

General Education Reflection

While completing my bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering at Iowa State University, I received multiple opportunities to take classes in non-STEM fields. These general education courses taught me about Global, Social, and Economic problems society faces. These classes gave me a greater breadth of knowledge, made me a better problem-solver, and increased the types of perspectives I gained.

Some of the classes I took and will be taking will help me build skills needed in the workplace. Proper communication of technical details is an essential skill for engineers to have. Fundamentals of Public Speaking (SP CM 2120) allowed me to conduct research and talk about it in a technical and persuasive manner. Through this course, I learned how to convert complex technical knowledge into something simpler for non-technical audiences to understand, which is also an essential skill for engineers. General Conversation skills also play a significant role as they are important to forming connections. Gender and Communication (SP CM 3230) will play a role in improving these skills, as it focuses on Verbal and Non-verbal communication and the shaping of the enactment of gender identity via communication.

Knowing the market is also helpful for engineers and helps them build economic solutions. I took Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 1010) to aid my knowledge. Knowledge of the many Global, Social, and Economic problems of the modern world was necessary to build on the basic principles of economics and apply them worldwide. Introduction to International Studies (INTST 2350) gave me a global perspective on different issues different communities face. This is important for engineers to know so that they can develop community solutions.

I will be aiding my knowledge of the present with some knowledge from the past by taking History of the British Empire (HIST 3270). Due to the significant impact of the British Empire in the past, it will be helpful to study how it has affected the world and made way for innovation. Since many countries are still heavily tied to the UK or have been heavily influenced by the British Empire, studying the past will help avoid creating engineering solutions that would not be favored.

The possibility of taking general electives alongside the engineering program has contributed much to the quality of my education. This exposure has mixed me up with various kinds of students and professors, which broadened my perception of approaches to solving problems and deepened my understanding of societal problems. The skills I learned in these courses, including good communication skills, a sense of global consciousness, and cultural sensitivity, will all come into play in my future career. I am most eager to pursue that vision in the engineering problems I will be solving to ensure that my solutions are technically sound, socially and otherwise relevant, and significant.