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CPRE 494

General Education Reflection

Over the past few years of my coursework at Iowa State University, I gained valuable skills and knowledge from my major's coursework that prepared me to become a competent engineer and broadened my perspectives on various topics through a series of general education courses. More specifically, the general education courses that I have taken have taught me valuable communication skills, broadened my perspective on the communities I belong, and fulfilled my interests.

I have learned from and reinforced many of my general education courses by considering other parties' viewpoints and experiences and using communication skills to formulate the best solutions. This has become an essential part of all of the engineering processes and that I am part of. As an engineer, I work within teams almost constantly. From team formulation to developing engineering solutions to novel problems, communication is essential in every single stage. From the general education courses, I learned how to collaborate better with my team through effective communication, thus influencing the final engineering solution by taking in everyone's points of view. During implementation, the communication skills I learned helped my teams be more productive since it helped keep everyone up to date, and problems that arise can be solved quickly.

One of the general education courses that I found helpful to my everyday life was Religion 210, where I learned about America's various religions and religious groups. From a non-religious background, the class was very intriguing for me. It helped me understand how the country and its people got to where they are today. While I do not get to use the knowledge of all the religions daily, one of the biggest takeaways was the idea that everybody has a story as complex as every others'. I should make an effort to take that into account for every decision I make that will influence someone else. Knowing that, I can develop engineering solutions that can better suit people's needs and make a difference on a larger scale.

Another class that I found tremendously helpful was COMST 310, theories of communication. Through that class, I learned how people use communication to create and change shared meanings. Using what I learned there, I can better communicate with the users of my engineering projects. By making the solutions more approachable, they also become more accessible to a broader range of people, thus impacting society more significantly. I want to work on projects that would make computers and the internet available to everyone I am the world in the future. Being able to better communicate with those in need will be a crucial component of that goal.

The general education courses are making a significant impact on my future career as a professional engineer. They helped me be more considerate of other aspects of engineering than the technical ones and made my work more impactful. I am glad that I took those courses during my time here at Iowa State University.