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CprE/EE 494
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General Education Reflection Essay

During my time at Iowa State University, I had to take a few general education classes. These classes gave me some useful knowledge that I may use to fulfill my career goals. My goals are to provide great service in information technology, create a secure work network, and create value by keeping up with and managing the latest technology. A couple of general education classes that will help me on my career path are METOR 324, ECON 101, ECON 301, and SP CM 212.

First off, METOR 324 gave me a better understanding of global warming. METOR 324 is a class about energy and the environment. In this class, I learned about the various aspects on how the usage of energy affects the environment. From the mining of coal to the excessive usage of the end user, we produce a lot of pollution that is destroying our planet. This class opened my eyes to the environmental issue of global warming. For a few assignments, we actually calculated my average consumption of carbon, and how many years it would take for plants and trees to remove the carbon dioxide from the air. The number of years was surprising, and I began to change my ways. Unfortunately, many people do not understand the implications of this, so we are going to experience significant changes in our lifetime. Now that I understand this issue, I will set out to design and engineer products that would use less energy. The class provided some good value, and I will help our environmental issue through the creation of new environmentally friendly product.

Next, I took ECON 101 and 301 to help me with my financial understanding. As a young person, I found value in understanding finances. First off, ECON 101 introduced me to the economic basics such as supply, demand, opportunity costs, pricing, and the market systems. From this class, I am able to see value in product, and judge it in its market. This class added some value in my employee skill set since I can now make some educated decisions on purchases. Next, ECON 301 added some more value. From this class, I learned more about the market along with behavior theories. I also learned about how to analyze economic markets. With this added knowledge, I would be able to understand market of the company's product, and give advice on based on some market analysis. Along with designing, I could help solve the engineering problem through economic advice.

Lastly, I took SP CM 212, speech class, to help improve my public speaking. During my childhood, I lived in the country, and I didn't have much social interaction because of it. This caused my social skills to be underdeveloped, so I took SP CM 212. Through several speeches and my effort to socialize, I began to develop my social skills. Also, I learned ways to make an effect and persuasive speech. Because of this class, I have increased my value to the employer. Through this knowledge, I would be able to work effectively with teammates, and lead presentations in the workplace.

These classes were a few of my important general education classes. Through each class, I gained a valuable understanding or skill that I wouldn't have had otherwise. My general education made me a better and more marketable employee. In the future, I hope to put these skills to use in the field of information technology, and bring a greater value to the company.