

General Education Reflection

My general education courses have helped me to develop as a professional engineer because of the courses I chose to take. My first general education course that I took was Macroeconomics (Econ 102). I chose this course because I had an interest in the larger overview of world economy. I learned about the importance of supply and demand along with how many of the emerging economies of the world have been building their economy into a successful state.

A second course was a retirement planning course (Econ 378) because I wanted to clarify some of the many ways to plan for retirement. I found this class interesting while talking about the different 401k plans along with discussing the differences of pre- and post-tax retirement plans and the benefits of each. While in the course, I learned that the course was more focused on the behavioral side of retirement planning, but I learned more than I thought I was going to get from the course originally.

A third course I chose was an Introduction to Agronomy course (Agron 114). I chose this course because of my interest of working in an agriculture background in my career. I found this course being much harder than I expected for a 100 level course. I learned quite a bit about the agronomic culture since I was raised around corn and soybeans in Iowa and not exposed to many of the other crops that are grown around the country and world.

My academic goals are to graduate on time within four years of coming to college. I do not plan to go to graduate college at this time but long term, if the company I am working for wants to send me to get my masters degree, I would go to pursue my masters degree while working for the company that is paying my tuition. For my career, I would like to stay in a dynamic work environment, similar to software development and Agile Process, or a similar process. I enjoy being able to develop software in an agriculture environment. My personal goals include finding a nice house that sits on an acreage in rural Iowa to raise a family on that is within a reasonable commute to work.

From my general education courses, I have learned many problem solving skills with the addition of general workings of the world so that I can apply my problem solving skills in the best manner in correspondence with the cultures of the world. Being able to apply the problem solving skill to real-life scenarios is very helpful in allowing me to understand what the practical uses for my skills are in the real world.

When problem solving, it is good to have an understanding about the basic principles of global economics so that you can apply solutions that are created to be incorporated to everyday lives of the global culture. As a society, having the correct product for the application makes sure the solution does not go unused and is a practical solution to the problem at hand.