

The general education classes offered at Iowa State University for Computer Engineering students are a great opportunity for students to explore their interests outside of engineering, yet they still help assist the student by giving them a broader view that is not centered around engineering. The classes that I experienced at Iowa State definitely helped me gain this broader view about the world I am in and myself.

My first general education course I took at Iowa State was Economics 101. This entry level economics class helped me realize that I would like to do a bit more than just engineering. It was something that further stemmed my interest in pursuing an MBA. To further confirm my interest in that program I took Economics 102 and Management 472 the semester after. The MGMT 472 course has been a very influential course for the rest of my engineering courses. It helped teach me about the unknown benefits of diversity that can improve a project or workplace. I learned that people from all ages, ethnicities, regions, genders, and all other backgrounds on a team generate more ideas and appeal to a larger target audience more often than a non-diverse team could. When a product reaches a larger target audience than before more people benefit from that new innovation and the company benefits from the added profits.

That extended world view aspect is what led me to my final general education class, German 375. GER 375 is a class about the Grimm brothers' collection of fairy tales that originated in and around Germany. Learning about the stories that have been passed down through generations and world events gave me a perspective of how the little day-to-day things can have a lasting impact on culture and people. I would like to keep that in mind when designing future products that people will have in their home and as a part of their life.

From these general education courses, I have grown in how I think about the designing process as an engineer. No matter what you are designing, including a diverse range of ideas from many different backgrounds is crucial in ensuring that your product reaches a wider range of people and stays with them for longer. These courses helped flesh out my design process, and I hope that what I have learned from the will stay with me.