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### General Education Reflection

During my two years taking college courses in high school and my four years at Iowa State, I took various courses outside my field of study to broaden my horizons and develop a greater understanding of various subjects. It has always been important for me to develop a greater understanding of a subject I believe may be useful to know in the future. I've found that in doing this, I've gravitated toward three main fields of study: English, Design, and Ethics.

During my first year at Iowa State, I took English 201 (Introduction to English Literature) and Speech Communications 212 (Public Speaking). These courses together gave me a greater understanding of the English language and how it can be used to great effect. Reading literature helped me to better understand how writing styles can influence the mood of a piece and broadened my vocabulary greatly. Public Speaking taught me all the important skills to prepare for and present to a large audience; it also educated me on the ethical responsibilities of doing so. Having these skills will allow me to communicate better in the workplace and overcome the problem of Brook's Law (which states that "adding manpower to a late software project makes it later").

During my second year at Iowa State, I took Architecture 321 (History of the American City) and Architecture 322 (Histories and Theories of Architecture after 1750). Both courses heavily focused on the importance of design to everyday life, such as how we navigate a planned city or how we utilize the spaces within our own homes. What I learned in these courses doesn't

just apply to construction; it can apply to almost anything. Purposeful and intentional design can be a powerful tool that shapes our behavior and influences our thoughts.

During my third year at Iowa State, I took Criminal Justice 339 (Liberty and Law in America). This tied in nicely with a college course I took in high school titled PSYCH 101 (Introduction to Psychology). The psychology course focused on human thought and the complex moral and ethical dilemmas surrounding it. Criminal Justice, in contrast, focused on human perceptions of government and how government developed in the western world. Criminal Justice and Psychology both touched on the important subject of privacy, a poignant issue in today's world, especially in the field of Software development. Better understanding privacy and the complex moral, ethical, and legal issues surrounding it will help me to develop software that doesn't violate the important principles surrounding privacy that we value.

Throughout my college education, I broadened my horizons by taking courses in various other disciplines. These refined my knowledge in the key areas of English, Design, and Ethics. My gained experience with public speaking and literature will help me to communicate better with coworkers and customers when working on a complex project, overcoming the many barriers in software development created by adding more programmers to a task. My nurtured love for design will help me to create products that not only work but can be used effortlessly; my design work may also improve the lives of customers in a way they may not intuitively expect. Lastly, my improved understanding of ethics, morals, and the legal system will allow me to know the true consequences of my work in a way I wouldn't have completely understood before. My experience with general education courses hasn't just furthered my knowledge in various subjects; it has made me a better engineer.