

# Program - Computer Science and Engineeri

*Alumni Survey 2012*

June 10th 2017, 12:10 pm EDT

**Q2 - If you have any additional comments or suggestions for changes in the CSE program, please explain briefly. If you would like to be contacted about your comments or suggestions, please include contact information (e-mail preferred):**

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We engaged in entirely too little practical material to drive the points of the theory home into an actionable set of skills. One can teach the theory \* and \* practice with modern tools such that graduates know the entire vertical stack from concept through implementation...

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In the database classes, do some actual work with databases, whether it is adding tables and making queries in SQL or using Microsoft Access. There was a push to have head knowledge but no practical knowledge. Also ditch RESOLVE-C++ as it was no help to me in college or out of college. Some classes on how to actually build computers and upgrade them would have been useful as well.

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I think it is a very strong and well respected program, I think it could have another path for someone who doesn't program as there is a gap between CSE and ECE programs with respect to possible jobs in the commuting field. Even so the CSE program teaches a lot of engineering skills that are used in any engineering career.

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In my early work experience knowing a lot of (programming) languages aren't important, it's the process and overall understanding how to write good code. Once you know a few different languages it's easy to pick up and learn a new one. There was a feeling as an undergrad that whatever language you knew, that's what you could write code in and not much else. I don't think it was understood by a lot of people that it's not about learning languages, but how to engineer a solution. Actually writing the code and the syntax and grammar of a language is part of that, but the problem should be abstracted from that. I'm not suggesting that the classes don't do that, I think all of the classes did a very good job of teaching problem solving vs 'this is how you do it in language X' but I think some students didn't make that connection.

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I feel the biggest misconception most have going into CSE is what the program actually is. Software developers are fine to pursue a CSE degree. However, CSE teaches theory and ideas. It does not emphasize as much on real world implementations. Most CSE classes do not require real implementations and are more concerned with understanding the theory and idea behind how things function. Real world hands on project solving is not the focus of CSE and this is a big eye opener. To excel in the real world outside of theory and academia, students need to pursue and get involved with programming on their own accord. It would be nice if the CSE department facilitated ways in which to aid students. Encourage students and also show students the importance of hands on. My main success in my current position comes from my jobs and experience outside the classroom. I worked for OIT as a sys admin/web developer which is where I learned most of what I use today. CSE prepared me for how to teach myself and how to enable myself to learn more. CSE taught me how to solve problems, it did not teach me how to connect to a sql database or compile a program from source. (Not saying CSE should but students need to understand what they are signing up for and what they need to do on their own accord to be truly prepared for industry.) I love OSU and I love the CSE department, I have nothing but great respect for the program and how well prepared I was for the real world. Learning how to learn yourself is the key to engineering.

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Encourage students to work more with their professors and advisors to explore interests that are not directly taught in the core courses. There will be someone to help them learn what they are interested in

It would be nice to have an additional focus on web-technologies and using more real-world applicable technologies (EJBs, Servlet filters, JAX-RS + JAX-WS webservices etc.). These concepts were touched upon in one course by Dr. Ramnath but one course simply is not enough to get a theoretical foundation and a practical understanding as well.