

# Dept: Computer Science

*Alumni Survey 2014*

June 9th 2017, 3:57 pm EDT

**Q2 - What single aspect of the CSE program did you find most helpful? Explain briefly. If you would like to be contacted about your comments, please include contact information (e-mail preferred):**

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Creating and building a system when given specific requirements from an outside group, much like the capstone projects. This has gone a long way with my current job, and it has given me an advantage over others by being able to communicate with business partners on a non technical level.

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Capstone and the 3rd CSE writing class They included projects that taught all aspects of software development

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There were multiple aspects: - the use of Unix/Linux - multiple project courses - the ability to take multiple capstone courses (which I did)

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Projects and classes that functioned like consulting projects were most helpful, as they simulated real life projects.

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in-person classes provide an environment where students talk and engage about their work. I have coworkers who are doing graduate work all online, and they are really missing out on the stuff you learn from interacting with professors and other students.

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Capstone was the single most important part of my education. It taught not only coding and practical use of learnings from other classes, but how to manage time over the course of a several month project, and how to work with others during that time and manage them as well. Managing expectations and understanding what realistic goals are as well were very important lessons.

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The ownership of the degree. That is what got me a job. The OSU education itself was not really helpful and definitely overpriced.

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The third "writing" class which was CSE 560 when I was there. The team work, design and programming required for that class was by far the most useful aspect of the CSE program. While many of the other classes were incredibly useful, nothing prepared me for my career more than that class.

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The encouragement to learn different programming languages and the lack of having to use a particular language for the classes. That allowed me to learn the pros and cons to each language and developed my ability to learn languages on my own which has helped tremendously.

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Not quite sure right now..maybe having received a very expensive piece of paper at the end. Ahh, the capstone class (Software Design Life Cycle - Agile). Although this was the only class on this topic, this is relevant every day in my job. More in-depth classes on this topic would be nice. Also, make it mandatory! I work with some OSU grads (graduated after me) who have never heard of Agile, Waterfall, use cases, epics, stories, etc...!!!

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I enjoyed CSE 560. Well, I hated CSE 560. But that's why I enjoyed it. It was a huge project that allowed me to really own a major software development project that had a well defined goal. My group made me want to tear my hair out, but I learned a lot of people skills in the process.

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The general engineering aspect. I feel my program did not educate me properly on the current technologies used but what it did really well was teaching me how to be language agnostic when programming. And the general engineering courses, while were very hard certainly taught me very good problem solving and critical thinking skills which have allowed me to excel in my job.

Freedom to choose classes at my own pace, out of order of the pre-reqs, etc.. Flexibility was key to banging out my degree, quick and easy!

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The ability to choose one's own senior level classes. The ability to customize one's education to suit their own interests and needs was very useful and allowed me to specialize in courses relevant to my focus that have been very helpful over the course of my graduate studies. Contact: rabuch2@illinois.edu

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Encouragement of creative thinking. There were many opportunities to brainstorm creative and new solutions to problems. Teachers solicited ideas instead of lecturing answers.

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Although there are aspects I'd change about the topic and tools (More industry valued languages and tools -- Resolve and CVS, really?!?), I found the group work did a pretty good job at preparing me for real-life collaboration.

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The opportunity to work with others. It's very rare to have a career where you never have to work with someone else.

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My academic advisor Peg Steele jerodfritz@gmail.com

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The documentation and communication focuses of our project classes have been extremely useful in my career. Where I work, the developers do a lot of the documentation for new features that they are working on, and I often get good feedback on my communication skills. Having experience before coming into the workplace with a good idea of different ways to communicate our functional design or technical design has been immensely helpful.

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Database programming