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INFO-Y 100

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Final Project and Reflection: INFO-Y 100

My idea for what I wanted to do with my life changed a lot over the last few semesters. Ultimately over the last few years, however, it came full circle. In my initial college search, I was initially looking to go into computer science as my major at various schools. During a college visit at another university, they had multiple sessions for their different schools so secondarily I attended business. I liked it and shifted that to my main as I didn’t like the science requirements Computer Science had at that university. My pursuit of business brought me to become a direct admit to the Kelley School of Business. I ended up learning many important fundamental skills, but it still didn’t feel right. It wasn’t fulfilling. There was something I had said during my college search when describing what I wanted to do that my dad liked to often relate back to. I said that I wasn’t interesting in creating tools, but in using them, in applying them to solve problems. I was more interested in optimizing, problem solving, and working with people regarding the new technologies. With the business side feeling an odd fit, I looked again to other routes and found Informatics again, having been introduced to it before lightly at several IUB orientation events as the route that was more technical with an accent of business versus my route of business with a light touch of technology. That brought me to INFO-Y 100, where I came to learn Informatics seemed to share a very close definition to the thing I wanted to do. 

INFO-Y 100 was an overall beneficial experience for career exploration, but even more so for the academic routes. My career ideas have not shifted much in terms of changing, but the course did give me
a deeper understanding to what SICE had to offer for majors, minors, and certificates. I knew of Informatics and Computer Science, but the class elaborated on the differences between the two and the kind of work that students typically go on to see. Outside of those, I was introduced to the Intelligent Systems Engineering as a new major. I don’t have an interest in pursuing it, but it is still very nice to see programs growing in the school. Even with Informatics, my own intended major, I came to learn a lot more about exactly what cognates are and just how diverse the Informatics degree is when you swap out the cognate courses. I mentioned it to a friend and he even looked for himself and was surprised how broad the topics go. It is not just any degree that has the flexibility to cover things ranging all over—business, biology, journalism, psychology, even music and more. That is such an impressive thing to me to see a technical route that prepares you for the job while still allowing personalization to topics that are most important to our interests. Honestly, the Design Challenge wasn’t too impactful to my insight. It gave a general idea to the kind of process that consultants and engineers might go through to solve issues, but it was nothing too specific to this kind of project or even to the class. I found the class speakers more insightful to the real experiences as they gave some stories and were able to talk to what they do and how the education played into it. Ultimately, the Design Challenge functioned only as effectively as the day we were given the scenarios while in groups and evaluated how we would go about solving them. The first few weeks featuring the personality tests and similar discussions reminded me a lot of Compass 1 that I had taken last year, but when it comes to the differences between the two, while Compass showed me how to make things like the LinkedIn account or how to build an execute my personal brand pitch, INFO-Y 100 was a fantastic place to apply what Compass built. INFO-Y 100 was more about informing on the routes I was looking at and provided many career events to inquire with employers and apply the professional aspects I had learned throughout my classes. I gained a lot of insight into where I am at and what directions I can take on my way to graduation and a good career.
As I alluded to before, my career interests have not shifted much. I still want to keep on with what I am doing with pursuit of IT consultancy. It has for a long time seemed like a career that met my personal values and interests and offers a variety of opportunities that can create many great workplaces to grow and build success within. The main change comes with my academic goals. This class has done much to open my eyes to what Informatics has to offer and shown me that it was the correct route to pursue what I am most interested in. In defining my academic and career goals, I did not come to change much, they align strongly with my insight, and because of that, I gained a sense of security and confidence that has sparked some excitement again in my college career as I ideate where to go from here.

What comes next? That’s what always comes to mind for me as soon as I accomplish a goal or take care of a substantial task. With my first semester in SICE already halfway over, it isn’t necessarily the time to question what comes next, but I regardless have spent more time than ever speculating where I would go from here and think that plays into what I should continue to do to stay on track. I should continue to review my degree map and class plans on iGPS to keep track of what classes I need to take and when if I plan to graduate at the right time. I should get into contact with my assigned advisor and have her review the classes I have set for myself and confirm which classes will advance me towards my graduation goals most efficiently. As for careers, I should try to get more work experience while I take my classes. I need to continue attending career events and networking with professionals. I need to keep improving my resume and investigate practice interviews. I should research more internship opportunities for my summers, winters, and post-graduation breaks. I have many ideas on where to go from where I am now, but it is just as important, if not more important, that I put these ideas to the test.

To test my ideas, there are many things I can do. Not all are high priority now or are necessarily time critical in any capacity. However, there are some I do believe would benefit me most through consistent application over time. I think the strategies that I can put to the test that would benefit me best would be firstly to continue meeting with counselors to discuss opportunities and get academic and
career advice and secondly to continue building work experience as I take my classes. Counselors can help me ensure my time is most efficiently used so I won’t make nonbeneficial choices. Also, it is no secret that alongside strong education and professional behavior, work experience is critical to worthwhile job placement. The more experience I get, the more I can build my skill set and experience a multitude of environments to understand which types I work best in. All this can lead me to be a more efficient worker and justify my employment to larger companies by having a thorough history of why I can be trusted in significant roles. I would not have the direction I have now if it were not for the experiences I have had in INFO-Y 100.

I am grateful for the experiences INFO-Y 100 has provided me and the greater insight for what I am getting myself into. When switching programs, there is a paranoia of “what if this isn’t the right fit either?” but this course, although brief, did much to make me confident that I can grow and thrive in a much more fulfilling way than the routes I had been on before. Attending events like the career fair and having my scheduled advising meeting showed me that SICE really cares for my future more than I had experienced prior and it made the future much less daunting to me. I loved the Level-Up extra credit. It was a very fun and unique way to inspire participation that I wish more classes had implemented. It is the little things like that that made me feel welcomed and quickly adopt the idea I am now where I should be. I am excited for my future and feeling very optimistic. I am grateful for this experience I have had.