Reflective Essay

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IDS 493

Professor Andrews

November 13, 2025

Introduction

During my information systems studies I acquired a number of skills that will be useful in my future profession. Critical thinking, communication and problem-solving are the three skills that I improved the most. IDS 300W Introduction to Information Systems and Cybersecurity Fundamentals were among the classes that helped students acquire these skills.

Most of the courses combined multiple academic fields within one, which indeed helped me learn new ways to approach problems. As an example, some assignments called for synthesizing research and writing skills developed in more communications-based classes with technical knowledge in cybersecurity classes. In the end, it helped me understand better how different academic fields work together in the world.

In order to hone these abilities and eventually get me ready for the workforce these classes required a series of tasks that included writing research and practical projects. Working on team assignments, running lab exercises, or drafting study reports didn't just build my job-related abilities - they showed me how to work together, share ideas clearly, while staying sharp when things get tight. Doing these helped round out my learning, getting me ready for real-world hurdles ahead. I've noticed blending ideas from different areas really helps tackle problems, since most challenges today don't fit just one department or field.

Skill 1: Critical Thinking

Critical thinking stands out as a key skill I've picked up. When looking into cyber threats, that skill came in handy. For this task, I reviewed info from different places like write-ups, papers, and guidebooks - to spot which facts felt solid. It helped me weigh opposing angles, judge how relevant they were, while picking reliable details to build my work on.

This journey helped me question common beliefs, judge how trustworthy information is, yet look at tough topics without bias. Courses such as IDS 300W built my ability to think critically, showing me how breaking down complicated issues makes them clearer. For example, in IDS 300W we learned how to take research questions and break them down into components that could be systematically explored piece by piece. I was able to structure and deeply carry out my cybersecurity research using this approach.

Apart from that, I also managed to learn how to apply theories from other courses in order to improve my critical thinking. For example, knowledge about cybersecurity courses helped me understand technical details, while writing and research techniques taken from communication-focused classes helped me effectively analyze and present those details.

I also came to see how important critical thinking is to achieving my career goals. Risk assessment, quick information processing and making sound decisions under pressure are highlighted in the majority of cybersecurity job postings. I am practicing critical thinking in my classes which gives me confidence in my academic abilities. I now understand that critical

thinking means considering the problem carefully and logically, bringing all the available information into consideration, rather than simply seeking the "right" answer, by going through the process of evaluating multiple sources and integrating knowledge across disciplines.

Skill 2: Communication

Another skill I greatly improved during my studies was communication. I used this ability during a group presentation on network security protocols. I had to ensure that my audience understood complex technical details for the explanation of this assignment. It meant I needed to clearly organize my thoughts, make images to support my argument, and deliver the speech clearly and confidently.

Several classes, including IDS 300W and Introduction to Information Systems, bettered my communication skills.I wrote reports, gave presentations and participated in group projects in these classes. For instance we frequently worked on research papers in IDS 300W that required presenting technical data in a logical readable way. Through this exercise I learned how to modify my communication approach according to the target audience, be it a technical team or a larger group.

Communication is essential for my future profession. An employer typically seeks candidates who can effectively collaborate with others, communicate complex ideas to others or explain technical information in simple terms. In group projects and presentations I have improved my ability to listen to others ask questions and offer helpful criticism. I discovered via

experience that effective communication entails more than just speaking and writing; it also entails teamwork, active listening and comprehending a variety of viewpoints.

Additionally I discovered that effective communication goes beyond formal writing and presentations. This was made clear by the need for me to document my actions during lab exercises and cybersecurity simulations, share my findings with colleagues and clearly explain difficult issues to others. These exercises gave me the chance to practice practical real-world communication which I think will be crucial for my future career.

Skill 3: Problem-Solving

The third skill I earned was problem-solving. Doing lab projects in detecting and thwarting cybersecurity attacks helped me enhance this ability. I found a number of complications in those exercises that obliged me to think for myself and find workable solutions. For example, I had to apply reasoning, investigation, and trial-and-error to solve unforeseen technical problems. These experiences truly helped teach me how to be tenacious and adaptable in challenging situations.

Sometimes, knowledge gained in other classes helped me in solving these issues. For instance, network theory from Cybersecurity Fundamentals helped me understand how an attack can take place, while communication strategies from IDS 300W helped me explain the solutions

to my peers. I was able to look at issues from different angles and come up with workable solutions by integrating knowledge from several academic fields.

Folks in cyber security often run into surprises needing quick thinking, so being able to work through issues matters a lot. These tasks showed me messing up fine. What counts is testing new ways and looking at what went down. Over time, I saw that cracking tough problems takes skill, fresh ideas, yet sticking with it no matter what. Additionally I learned how to work in groups to solve problems which reaffirmed for me the significance of combining various abilities to accomplish a single objective.

Conclusion

All in all, school taught me plenty that'll come in handy later on. Because of mixed-subject courses and tasks, my problem-solving, communication, and thinking skills got sharper. Facing tough situations, I figured out hands-on methods to deal with them - this helped me use ideas from different areas more easily

IDS 300W was particularly significant because of the teaching on conducting research, data analysis, thought organization, and presentation. These skills greatly facilitated the completion of assignments in other courses and allowed me to complement technical competence with strong skills in analysis and presentation. Furthermore, project work that combined writing

and technical elements made clearer to me the significance of interdisciplinary thinking in real professional life. Most problems within a professional setting are not confined to one discipline; therefore, the ability to combine knowledge from multiple disciplines is particularly valued.

Being an interdisciplinary thinker is crucial because it promotes flexibility, adaptability and teamwork. I gained the capacity to approach assignments from several perspectives, gathered data from several courses and used these skills both individually and collaboratively. This ability will be crucial to my future profession particularly in cybersecurity where issues frequently call for simultaneous knowledge of technology policy and communications.

Finally, these interactions boosted my confidence in doing well at work. Working on how I think, speak, and tackle problems meant I could handle tough situations, adapt when things change, or team up smoothly with people. Here, I saw matters differently each time - tried different ways to reach goals. Moving into a job and growing further, I believe what I've learned so far gives me solid ground to stand on.