

Capstone Reflection

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IDS493

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Introduction

As someone who was homeschooled for the later half of my education, I was a bit nervous when I applied to ODU. I wanted to experience what college had to offer while also building on my existing skills in IT. In my time at ODU, I have been able to experience the many different experiences college has to offer and have been able to massively develop my skills. Some of the most important skills I learned were communication, teamwork and leadership. All of which were key to success in the cybersecurity program. In classes like cybersecurity and the social sciences, I was able to hone my communication and teamwork skills through rigorous group projects.

Cybersecurity Program

The cybersecurity program has given me several key experiences that reflect my development as a student. One experience I am especially fond of is the amount of hands-on application that the courses offer. Almost every course has labs and simulations that directly reflect the knowledge taught in class, while allowing students to build confidence in the platforms that they will use later in their careers.

Another experience worth noting is the emphasis on career development. Most courses teach you the skills you will need within the professional world alongside cyber and IT. Furthermore, there are always events being held which allow students to network and get recruited for career opportunities.

Many of my previous courses in Information Systems proved to be useful as the fundamentals were essentially the same. Operating systems and network management were the two fundamentals that I felt helped me most during the program.

While my time here has been relatively trouble free, there have been obstacles. The prerequisites for the cybersecurity program included pre-calculus, which I had not completed prior due to my previous program not requiring it. This was challenging as I had not studied any math for years, and unless I could complete the course, I would not be able to register for the program. In order to overcome this obstacle, I took a lighter course load to focus on math and used the tutoring available through ODU. I was able to pass with an A which allowed me to continue my cybersecurity degree.

IDS 493

The IDS E-Portfolio Project course is the perfect example of how ODU contributes to student success. It is the accumulation of everything you would learn at ODU put into a professional and simple format. It allows for students to display their academic and professional experiences for employers, schools and career development opportunities.

To me the valuable concept I learned during this course is learning how to develop your own skills through feedback and constructive criticism. The peer review assignments allowed for me to get second opinions on changes I made throughout the course. This was important as my main goal was to create a simple, professional and easy to navigate portfolio.

Through feedback and criticism I was able to develop my portfolio into something I can be proud of. Notably my experiences section, I feel like it is the perfect demonstration of how the material taught in the cybersecurity program has impacted me. I also gained experience using wordpress which was rather challenging at first. Many of the changes I wanted to make required embedding, formatting and major design changes. Due to the fact I had only used a basic template for my portfolio before taking IDS 493, there was a major learning curve I had to

overcome. However with time I was able to navigate wordpress efficiently. With more time I am sure I'll be able to improve even more aspects of my portfolio.

Conclusion

Overall I feel proud of how my portfolio turned out, especially when considering how many of the concepts I learned during previous classes and IDS 493 were applied into the development of my portfolio. Many of the interdisciplinary concepts were key to maintaining the professional aspect of my site, while the cybersecurity concepts acted as the foundation of the image I wanted to portray. Topics like social science, professional development, and law are what shape the field. It is not strictly one field of study but rather the accumulation of several fields coming together to shape what we know as cybersecurity. I wish to become a part of the cybersecurity workforce once I am done with my studies at ODU. Developing new strategies, testing new technologies and helping maintain security are what drive to this field.