

Anand Sekar

Yuliana Flores

GEN ST 199: The University Community

11/04/16

Mapping Assignment Response

Video Response:

What are three insights you gained from the video?

One, I'm more assured now that it's okay to stay as an undecided major until you're ready to settle down on one – although I feel as if I'm already on a good path. Two, it's totally alright if your major doesn't correlate to your career, if whatever skills you learned can contribute to whatever you're doing. Third, maybe combining political studies with engineering isn't such a crazy idea, given one of the biology students is considering majoring in political science.

How will it influence your academic plan?

One of the students in the videos mentioned that it's good to take classes from all the different departments to truly explore your options, so now when I'm looking at classes for winter quarter, I'm going to make sure I look at something unrelated to math or physics or computer science.

What about this experience has caught your interest?

I'm going to be completely honest here: nothing in my entire life so far has blown my mind away to this extent. One key facet of the experience was my exposure to the interconnectedness and multifariousness of sensorimotor neuro engineering and sciences: how it involves a plethora of areas of knowledge. I didn't realize how much knowledge was involved, from purely abstract, conceptual mathematics to concrete biological studies. This caught my curiosity quite well.

How might this experience enhance or give new perspective to some of the academic goals you have for yourself?

I was pretty set on computer engineering – and I have been for most of my life. I'm still pretty set on it, however, I would really like to minor in something that would aid in an application of computer engineering/ robotics, such as biology or neuroscience or space science. Although I would like to focus on developing a strong vertical skill, I now realize the need for having more “horizontal” and diverse areas of expertise.

What are some steps you would need to take in order to really get involved/ sign-up/ apply for this experience?

UW's Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering has a website with all the information I need. The calendar keeps me updated for events. Their news/ blog/ update pages have some really interesting information that I've been reading up on, such as their articles on “Touching The Void.” Moreover, for undergraduates, they have the tech sandbox competition, which I heard was part of a class being offered in Winter Quarter from my Disability 101 professor. This is the course that they offer: <http://courses.washington.edu/neuroeng/index.html>. I've already began studying the material, and I have the class bookmarked in MyPlan. Although the course details mention there are no prerequisites, and that non-neuro majors must contact someone to register for the course, I'm going to make sure this class is meant for me before considering registering for it. There's another course that is being offered next quarter, under CSE 490: Special Topics in CSE with a 3-credit course on neural engineering. This is also added to MyPlan and hopefully this is a much better option than the full introductory neurobiology course.