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Creative Technology Reflection

I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to pursue a major like Creative Technologies, which closely aligns with my passions and aspirations. Creative Technologies has equipped me with a robust toolkit of hard skills such as coding, PCB design, web design, and programming, while also providing invaluable insights into soft skills like adaptability, perseverance, collaboration, and creativity. From courses in commercialization and entrepreneurship to classes like practical electronics and intermediate design studio, each facet of my journey in Creative Technologies has contributed to my growth and development.

Transitioning into Creative Technologies from Biology, I sought a major that would allow me to actively engage with my interests in video production, graphic design, and technology. The structured yet flexible classroom environment of Creative Technologies differs markedly from traditional classes; here, learning itself takes center stage. Courses are project-based, eschewing heavy reliance on tests, exams, and homework in favor of demonstrating understanding through tangible projects. This approach, particularly evident in courses like CRT 101, immediately resonated with me. Projects such as the lamp assignment, where creativity knew no bounds as long as the result was a lamp, exemplified the hands-on, innovative ethos of Creative Technologies. This emphasis on project-based learning not only fostered independence, innovation, and collaboration but also encouraged students to integrate diverse aspects of their

education, backgrounds, and interests into their work. Personally, I found this approach refreshing; I wasn't just passively absorbing information but actively delving deeper into topics that genuinely interested me.

CRT 101 served as a foundation, imparting essential coding, wiring, and digital fabrication skills while encouraging independent project development. What set this course apart was its emphasis on prototyping, innovation, and fostering a growth mindset. The culture of embracing failure as part of the learning process was transformative, instilling in me a sense of resilience and problem-solving crucial for navigating more advanced courses like practical electronics and capstone. Moreover, the entrepreneurial focus embedded within the curriculum, exemplified by courses like ENT 340 and commercialization, empowered me to explore ventures beyond the classroom. Initiatives like starting a clothing brand and a photography/creative services business allowed me to experience firsthand the process of product development and marketization, leveraging the resources and mentorship available within the Creative Technologies program. Dr. Paula Englis and Dr. John Grout played pivotal roles in this journey; their experience working with entrepreneurs provided invaluable insights into bringing ideas to market, conducting market research, analyzing customer behavior, and managing finances. It's rare to find professors who not only teach but also inspire and equip students to become entrepreneurs, guiding them through every stage of development, from conception to execution.

Junior and senior development courses further honed my professional acumen, equipping me with essential skills for career readiness, from crafting resumes and cover

letters to mastering interview etiquette. By examining the career trajectories of former Creative Technologies students through alumni panels and interviews, these courses provided practical insights into translating classroom learning into real-world opportunities. Thanks to these classes, I secured multiple internship offers in my junior year and now approach job applications and interviews with confidence. Professors like Zane and Mr. Whitmire were instrumental in this process, always available for guidance and feedback, and fostering environments of collaboration and independent learning.

Upon graduation, I aspire to pursue a career that utilizes the technology and entrepreneurship skills I've acquired in Creative Technologies, alongside the creative skills gained as a Communication major. Roles such as UX/UI Designer, Project Manager, IT/Help Desk Support, Systems Engineer, Process Engineer, and Social Media Coordinator/Engineer stand out to me. Realistically, I envision working in one of these roles while simultaneously nurturing my creative services business, ShotByAgyi, and my clothing brand, House Park Clothing. I seek a career environment that embodies the Creative Technologies mindset, where individual creativity is encouraged, and collaboration is valued.

As I approach the culmination of my Senior Capstone Project and graduation, I am grateful for the holistic education and transformative experiences provided by Creative Technologies. Armed with a diverse skill set, an entrepreneurial mindset, and a supportive network of mentors and peers, I am confident in my ability to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities that await in my future endeavors.