

How Programming Skills Helped Me in College

I was a student at Storming Robots from 6th grade up until my high school graduation. Throughout the years, I have worked in RoboLab, RobotC, C, and the Arduino-Sketch. Of course, the skills I developed at Storming Robots throughout my grade school years would have helped me pursue a traditional computer science degree, but they helped me in a slightly different way. Although my major was in Biomedical Engineering, my coding skills have proven to be a boost to my internship opportunity. Aside from making me feel really cool, programming and robotic projects have reinforced many soft skills, such as logic, concentration, teamwork, and perseverance. Since programming has become involved with a wide variety of professions, skills in programming have become applicable to a wide variety of majors. This is the primary reason why I feel experience in computer programming can be invaluable to many people.

Soon after entering college, I sought an opportunity to join engineering design team focusing on medical devices. Before joining the team, I had to undergo an application process. During the interviewing, I was asked primarily about relevant prior experiences. These questions evoked memories of competitions, programming projects, algorithms and classes I engaged in over the years at SR. Interestingly, what did not come up in our conversation was my grades or test scores. The design team members were primarily focused on the skills I had developed within engineering, which I have learned so much throughout the years at SR. I believe my programming experience was critical to my admittance into the group. Later in the semester, I decided to join a research laboratory, which focuses on determining protein structures. Again, I was surprised to see how relevant computer programming was to my lab; and my computer programming skill has met one of the major criteria for being accepted into the research team.

Throughout my entire first semester at college, my time at Storming Robots helped me become a more involved engineer on campus. Between the actual programming experiences that allowed me to join the design team and research lab, and the soft skills that helped me in the classroom, computer programming focusing with computational thinking shaped my first semester at college for the better. Even my time at *The Loose Gears* helped me become a more effective communicator, as well as a more concise writer, which helps me as a member of the design team. The skills I have developed at Storming Robots over my teenage years have proved to be an invaluable resource to me.



- **Nikhil Shah, 2015**