

SELF-EVALUATION, PDP, & TOPIC SUMMARY

MODULE

Learning in the Digital Era (ACCA 4025)

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INTRODUCTION

This presentation outlines a personal and professional development journey as a first-year **Software Engineering** student. By utilizing the **Gibbs Reflective Model**, I evaluate my current academic standing and technical skills.

The presentation further details a structured **Professional Development Plan (PDP)** with SMART goals and a summary of **Virtual Collaboration**, a critical topic in the modern digital era of software development.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Self-Evaluation: Reflecting on current skills and areas for growth in software development.

Strategic Planning: Creating a SMART Professional Development Plan (PDP).

Industry Insight: Analyzing Virtual Collaboration within the digital era.

REFLECTIVE MODEL: GIBBS (1988)

STAGE 01

DESCRIPTION

What happened? Factually describing the event or experience.

STAGE 02

FEELINGS

What were you thinking and feeling at the time?

STAGE 03

EVALUATION

What was good and bad about the experience?

STAGE 04

ANALYSIS

What sense can you make of the situation?

STAGE 05

CONCLUSION

What else could you have done? What did you learn?

STAGE 06

ACTION PLAN

If it arose again, what would you do differently?

"It is not sufficient simply to have an experience in order to learn. Without reflecting upon this experience it may quickly be forgotten, or its learning potential lost."

— GRAHAM GIBBS (1988)

TASK 1: SELF-EVALUATION

STRENGTHS

Strong logical reasoning and algorithmic thinking.

Proficiency in Python and core programming concepts.

Passion for creative problem-solving.

WEAKNESSES

Time management during complex coding projects.

Adapting to formal academic writing standards.

Limited experience with large-scale system architecture.

OPPORTUNITIES

Integrating AI-assisted tools into dev workflows.

Contributing to open-source software communities.

Networking through professional platforms like LinkedIn.

THREATS

Rapidly evolving tech stacks and frameworks.

High competition in the entry-level job market.

Maintaining work-life balance in high-pressure roles.

TRAITS GAINED FROM REFLECTION

RESILIENCE

Learning to view "bugs" as opportunities for deeper understanding rather than failures. Developing a persistent mindset in debugging.

CRITICAL THINKING

Moving beyond "how to code" to "why this architecture works."
Analyzing system design choices and their long-term impacts.

PROFESSIONALISM

Understanding the importance of documentation, peer review, and coding standards in a collaborative environment.

SELF-AWARENESS

Recognizing personal learning styles (Visual/Kinesthetic) to optimize study sessions and technical skill acquisition.

TASK 2: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

GOAL TO ACHIEVE	PERSONAL ACTION PLAN	RESOURCES REQUIRED	PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT	EXPECTED COMPLETION
Master Java Programming	Complete Oracle Java Certification course and build 3 portfolio projects.	Udemy, JDK 21, IntelliJ IDEA, University Labs.	Oracle Certified Associate (OCA)	Passing certification exam with 80%+ score.	Dec 2026
Improve Academic Writing	Attend 3 university writing workshops and use peer-review services.	University Library, Grammarly, Writing Center.	N/A (Academic Excellence)	10% increase in technical report grades.	June 2026
Agile & Team Mastery	Join a collaborative GitHub project and lead a 2-week sprint.	GitHub, Jira, Discord, Agile Manifesto.	Professional Scrum Master (PSM I)	5 merged Pull Requests in open-source.	Aug 2026

UNIT 4: VIRTUAL COLLABORATION

Topic: Forming a Team in Virtual Environments. In the digital era, software development is increasingly remote. Virtual Collaboration requires more than just tools; it requires a culture of trust. According to **Harvard Business Review (2018)**, the "Forming" stage is critical for establishing team norms.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Lack of non-verbal cues
- Asynchronous delays
- Establishing initial trust

BEST PRACTICES

- Slack for communication
- GitHub for version control
- Zoom for alignment

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Effective team formation leads to **25% higher productivity** in Agile sprints and improved psychological safety.

TRUST IS THE FOUNDATION OF DIGITAL COLLABORATION.

CONCLUSION

The integration of **self-evaluation** and a structured **Professional Development Plan** is essential for navigating the complexities of a Software Engineering career. By applying the **Gibbs Reflective Model**, I have gained clarity on my strengths and areas for growth.

FINAL OUTLOOK

BUILDING A FUTURE AS A REFLECTIVE, PROFESSIONAL, AND COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPER.

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