

Dear Prospective Student,

We are living through a very difficult time right now with so much uncertainty of what lies ahead. Given the circumstances, I am very glad that you are considering coming to Iowa and joining the Honors Program! The Honors Program at Iowa will give you so many opportunities and connections.

My name is Eden Conroy and I am a second-year Honors student at Iowa. I am from a suburb of Chicago called Naperville, Illinois. I am a Psychology major with minors in Human Relations and Music.

Going to college can be overwhelming! I was very scared to come to Iowa, I thought that I wouldn't transition very well, but my experiences in the Honors Program helped me adjust and enjoy myself. I arrived at the University early for a class called Honors Primetime. This is a 3.5-day workshop that takes place a week before school starts. The workshop topics vary widely, and you don't have to choose one that related to your major; I remember there was one about 'How Birds Fly'! I ended up taking the workshop on Music and Culture where we learned traditional music from Ghana. In this workshop I got to play 4 different types of drums, a calabash, a cowbell, along with so many other instruments and singing. We learned about the history and traditions of their music and got to perform several songs in front of the rest of primetime at the end of the session. This workshop helped me make friends and obtained me 1 credit hour of honors coursework before classes even started! In addition, moving in a week early helped me understand the layout of campus, learn the bus system, and settle into my dorm room!

I have also had the amazing opportunity to do an Honors Contract. An Honors Contract is when you take a standard course and do an extra project to get honors credit for it. I did this for my Rhetoric class, and it was a very great experience for me to make a connection with my professor, Chris Wei. He was very open about the project requirements and told me I needed to write a research paper on a topic that I am very passionate about. I chose to write about orchestra's playing music by composers who were bad people. While writing my paper, I got to discuss with my professor all of my beliefs and we had very nice discussions. Through my Honors Contract, I got to learn more about a topic that I am passionate about and gain a great connection with my professor.

Honors Primetime and doing an Honors Contract were just two examples of classes that helped me enjoy being at school. In addition, the Honors community is very welcoming. I had the great opportunity of living in Daum Residence Hall for Honors students and it helped me meet some of my best friends today. In my future for in the Honors Program, I look forward to studying abroad and doing research for experiential learning! Of my time at Iowa, the Honors Program has given me my most happy moments and pushed me academically. There are so many amazing opportunities that will be available to you and I hope that you strongly consider Iowa and the Honors Program!

Sincerely,
Eden Conroy