

Dear Potential Student,

My name is Haley Lightfoot and I am a second-year student here at the University of Iowa. I am studying chemistry with a minor in physics. Apart from being an Honors Outreach Ambassador, I am a member of Delta Gamma Sorority, Salt Company, U-Iowa Running Club, and Women in STEM Ambassadors. I'm so excited to tell you why I chose to go to Iowa, why I chose to join the Honors Program, and why I am so glad I did both.

There are so many reasons why I chose the University of Iowa. Growing up, I always knew I wanted to go to a Big 10 school, it was just a matter of which one. When I walked on Iowa's campus for the first time during my junior year of high school, I knew this was the school for me. Iowa just felt like home. After learning more about the amazing opportunities available to me through the university, I became even more positive that this was the place for me. Iowa is an R1 research school, which means they have very high research activity. This was a huge selling point for me because my future career involves research. Iowa has hundreds of clubs to get involved in from Running club to dance marathon to fraternity and sorority life. The amazing football team at Iowa didn't hurt either. All of these factors led to me choosing Iowa, but my decision came down to one really important factor, the honors college. The Honors Outreach Ambassadors at the time made the honors college sound irresistible. To this day, choosing the University of Iowa is still one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Like I said in the previous paragraph the Honors Program was one of the main reasons I chose to go to the University of Iowa. The Honors Program at Iowa does not have a huge list of requirements. Honors students must do 12 semester hours of Honors classes, 12 semester hours of experiential learning, and maintain a 3.33 GPA. These requirements make the Honors Program accessible for every major on campus because they can be fulfilled by doing things students were already planning on doing. For example, most students plan on doing an internship during their 4 years and an internship counts as experiential learning. The Honors Program offers so many amazing opportunities that you cannot access outside of the program. A few examples are study abroad and honors classes. There are certain study abroad programs that are only available to Honors Student; These trips are led by Honors professors and count as experiential learning credit. A lot of first year and second-year classes offer an Honors section. This section learns the same materials but the discussions and/or labs are filled with like-minded honors students. Overall, choosing to join the honors program was a no brainer for me.

Now that I have told you why I chose Iowa and why I chose to participate in the Honors Program, I should tell you why joining the Honors Program was an amazing decision: the experiences. Let's start with Honors Primetime. I absolutely loved Honors Primetime. I met two of my closest friends the night I moved in at a Primetime event, got to explore downtown Iowa City with a class of 20 honors students, and get back into the school mindset before classes even started. I also got to move in a week early! I also loved my Honors first year seminar. This is required for all first-year honors students, but it is so much fun. Mine was called "Bringing Dinosaurs Back to Life" and it was 16 weeks of discussions on dinosaurs with a cool professor and fellow honors students. These are just two examples of my amazing honors experiences, but I have a million more. If you join the Honors college, you'll be able to make amazing memories like these for yourself.

Sincerely,
Haley Lightfoot