

Dear Prospective Student,

My name is Drew Dupont, and I am a first-year student here at the University of Iowa. I am from Cedar Rapids, Iowa (30 minutes north of Iowa City). If you are feeling worried about not knowing anyone or think it will be hard to talk to new people in general, hopefully I can be an example of how diverse the Honors Program is here, or if you have any similar high school experiences, I can be someone to connect with answer any questions you may have about the University. I had a wide variety of experiences in high school; I played four different sports over all the four years, volunteered for Key Club and National Honors Society, competed in Business Professionals of America, and took many Dual Credit/AP Courses. I chose the University of Iowa for its prestigious programs, student life, and all the opportunities at the University.

Currently, I am studying Actuarial Science as my major with a Business Administration minor and pursuing the Risk Management and Insurance Certificate. I was accepted to the Honors Program during the summer before my school started this year. This gave me the opportunity to start out the year already invested in the Honors Program. Unfortunately, I was not able to participate in Honors Primetime, but nonetheless, I have only heard amazing things about it. One of my best friends did experience it, and he moved in a week earlier than I did while learning about birds for 3.5 days. Oddly enough, he really enjoyed it and was very glad to get one semester hour of Honors Coursework for the whole thing. I did take my first Honors Coursework semester hour through an Honors First-Year Seminar during this fall about meteorites. Due to my course of study, I do not have to take many science classes, but I actually was very happy to take it since I really liked the teacher, Professor David Peate, and how interesting he made the class to science majors and non-science majors. I would not have ever had him as my teacher if I were not involved with the Honors Program. I also joined the Honors Outreach Ambassadors during the winter break just a few months ago.

I know with all the circumstances around us this is a very confusing and unique time for all of us. The Honors Program can seem very confusing on the outside, but the uniqueness of the path you can take to complete it makes it perfectly stress free and simple for you. All of the requirements to be met can be done in almost any way you want. You can take the Honors sections of classes to gain credits for your Honors Coursework requirement. Contrary to false beliefs, the class material is the exact same as non-Honors sections, but you get more lively and intuitive classes since everyone is in the Honors Program like you! Likewise, the Honors Experiential Credit can be completed in so many different ways, you can do what is best for you and your schedule. You can get credit for Studying Abroad, doing Honors in the Major, Research, Contracting (doing extra work in classes based on your teacher's discretion), and even Internships.

I am just an ordinary freshman who loves sports, the gym, friends, and a social life, yet I still have all the time to do my schoolwork, stay involved in the University community, and be a part of the Honors Program. The Honors Program works with you to enhance all your experiences with the University and builds a great network for you to get to know so many people! I recommend being part of the Honors Program for all these reasons and more, so feel free to reach out to me (andrew-dupont@uiowa.edu) for any questions you have about the Honors Program or just everyday life as a student!

Best of luck in your future (hopefully here at Iowa and in the Honors Program),

Drew Dupont

Go Hawks!!