

Dear Prospective Student,

Take a second to congratulate yourself for all the hard work you've been putting into finishing your senior year strong and trying to figure out future plans, all while in the middle of a pandemic. I understand that this can all be super overwhelming, so please take some time to let yourself relax and reward yourself for everything you've done this far. With that being said, I am so happy that you are considering the University of Iowa as your future school.

My name is Erin Bughman, I'm a freshman and I am still adjusting to attending school almost entirely virtually just like you. I am from Dubuque, Iowa and I am currently enrolled as an open major. I decided to go to the University of Iowa partly due to the fact that I still wasn't sure on my major. The University offers a great program for open major students like me, and has a great system of allowing students to dip their toes into their various interests before committing to a major. I am interested in the fields of psychology and journalism, and because I love to write, the University of Iowa had to be the place I attended.

I decided to apply for the Honors program not long after committing to the school, as I thought it would be a great way to have various opportunities and experiences as a freshmen. I attended the Honors program ceremony that welcomed new freshmen into the Honors program, and immediately there I knew that I had made the right decision.

The Honors program offers an inclusive community that can help when transitioning from a smaller town to a school of over 30,000 students. Through being in the Honors program I've been able to make connections with students and staff members that I wouldn't have met otherwise. So far the best experience I've had as a student in the Honors program has been Honors Primetime, an event that is hosted before the beginning of first semester. I took a writing Primetime course which allowed me to explore one of my possible majors even before starting

the semester on campus. In addition, being on campus a week before actual classes began gave me the transition period I needed to become fully adapted to living on a college campus.

Through Primetime I was able to meet tons of other Honors students who I later shared classes with, which allowed the University to feel just a tad bit smaller and more connected.

The Honors program at the University of Iowa has made me feel relieved that I made the right decision, even if I am still undecided about my major. This community has already provided me with amazing professors, leadership roles, experiences, and opportunities that I am very thankful for. With that being said, I really hope you consider enrolling at the University of Iowa and becoming a part of the Honors program here.

Sincerely,

Erin Bughman