

Dear Prospective Student,

Hello! My name is Jivan Koneru, and I'm a second year Biology student on the Pre-Medicine track from Waukee, Iowa.

The past year has completely changed the lives of everyone around the world, but you have found a way to persevere through it all, and now it's only a matter of time before high school is behind you and a bright future reveals itself. You should be proud of yourself for all the hard work you have put in to get to this point in your life! Applying to college can be both daunting and exciting. Where you choose to go to college impacts your future immensely, so it's important that you are confident in your final decision. When I had to make a choice, the Honors Program at the University of Iowa had a major role in drawing me to Iowa City and making me believe in my future, and I believe it can do the same for you!

One of the best parts about the Honors Program is that you get to take control of your learning. Honors courses are designed to help you dive deeper into your areas of interest and collaborate with students around you. Many people think that honors courses are harder; however, that is not the case at all. If you simply have a passion for learning, the Honors Program is a perfect fit for you! Another aspect of the Honors Program is experiential learning, which is one of my favorite parts of Honors! Experiential learning is all about utilizing opportunities like study abroad, internships, and research to apply your knowledge from class and discover what the real world has to offer. The best way to strengthen your knowledge and skills is through practice, and experiential learning will allow you to do just that.

Apart from the academics, being in the Honors Program at the University of Iowa means you are joining a community that is dedicated to helping you succeed. If I'm being honest, it's the sense of community that I have come to appreciate the most about the Honors Program. Since the moment I stepped foot on campus, it's the people involved in the Honors Program - staff and students - that have helped make college such a beautiful experience for me. From the early morning trips to the recreation center to play basketball with my floormates to the late-night study sessions with my friends the night before an exam, so many of my favorite memories have been made possible because of my involvement in Honors.

As your senior year of high school comes to an end, I hope you seriously consider coming to the University of Iowa. It will live up to all of your expectations!

Best,

Jivan Koneru