

Dear Prospective Student,

Hello! I am thrilled you are thinking about becoming a Hawkeye and joining the Honors Program at the University of Iowa. I would like to share with you some of the exciting opportunities that Honors has to offer to help you make your decision.

First, let me tell you a little about myself. My name is Madisyn, and I am a third-year Honors student. I am from Sycamore, Illinois. My major is Health and Human Physiology with a minor in Psychology. After I graduate, I plan to pursue a master's degree in nursing with a goal to become a Nurse Practitioner. For me it was a no brainer to join the Honors Program. I wanted to be part of a tight-knit community to ease my apprehension as a first-year college student. Through Honors I forged close connections at Daum (the honors dorm) and in my honors classes. I now know I had nothing to worry about!

My Honors journey started with moving into Daum a few days early and participating in Honors Primetime. I was part of the "trashcano" team where we blew water out of a trash can like a volcano. It was so much fun. I was really nervous about college life, but starting a few days early and meeting so many amazing people reduced my anxiety. I found it helpful to get familiar with the campus before classes started. I also met two of my current roommates from Primetime, so I can easily say that I created lifelong friendships from the three day program.

If you are wondering about Honors classes, let me tell you about them. Freshman year I took a seminar, *Herbal Products: They're Natural, But Are They Safe* with Professor Wiemer. In this class we explored the in-depth world of herbal supplements. I enjoyed being part of a freshman Honors class with only 20 students and working directly with one of our chemistry professors. One of my favorite Honors courses was Classical Mythology with Dr. Trusty. She was so cool and led our Honors discussion section. A common misconception about Honors is that classes are more difficult, but that is absolutely not the case. Instead you benefit from the challenge to think deeper, work closer with your professors, and interact with other Honor students.

The ability to engage in experiential learning is one of the most rewarding programs in Honors. My personal experiences include a summer internship at a rehabilitation center working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. In addition, last summer I completed a project exploring vaccine development and how COVID-19 has impacted my life and others. Lastly, over winter break I participated in a virtual study abroad course on International Medicine. We zoomed into a Dominican Republic Hospital and observed doctor-patient interactions, conversed with patients, and learned about the culture. In closing, the Honors Program has provided me a wealth of opportunities to foster my development at the University of Iowa. Those same opportunities are here for you. Sincerely,

Madisyn Grever

