

Dear Prospective Student,

I can't imagine how difficult it is to be in the midst of your college decision during a time characterized by so much uncertainty. Without being able to attend campus visits, I'm sure it is hard to estimate what your college experience might be like. However, I'm so excited to hear that you are considering the University of Iowa and are interested in our Honors Program. I hope that in sharing some of my own experiences I can help make your decision a little easier.

My name is Molly and I am a sophomore studying Neuroscience with a minor in Chemistry on the pre-med track. In my college search, I prioritized schools that would help me grow as a person, providing me with opportunities to challenge myself academically, diversify my experiences, and connect with others. I have certainly found all these things in my two years here at Iowa, largely facilitated by my involvement in the Honors Program.

Our Honors Program seeks to help students set and achieve academic goals. For every field of educational interest, honors provides immersive experiences designed to promote the discovery of new passions. In working towards completing your twelve hours of honors coursework, required in the program's curriculum, you'll likely participate in smaller, discussion-based sections, meant to emphasize collaboration over competition. Similarly, honors first-year seminars and Primetime count towards these twelve credits, and give you the chance to make lasting connections with other devoted students and staff.

Not only is the Honors Program dedicated to ensuring your academic excellence, but it also emphasizes self-discovery and community building through experiential learning. Also a twelve credit requirement, experiential learning can be pursued in many different ways, allowing for you to explore your individual interests. Some of these options include undergraduate research, study abroad, internships, teaching assistantships, and many more. In addition to

providing you with great professional opportunities and connections, earning experiential credit teaches you that learning doesn't end outside the walls of a classroom.

Overall, the University of Iowa and specifically the Honors Program sets students up for success in the future. The Honors Program has helped me establish a strong sense of community on campus and has encouraged me to pursue my own curiosity; I am confident it will do the same for you. I wish you the best of luck in your college decision, and I can't recommend UIowa highly enough! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Best,

Molly Harris