

Dear prospective student,

My name is Noelle Ossenkop and I am a third year Computer Science and Engineering major from Mount Vernon, Iowa. I'm excited that you're considering the University of Iowa in your college search! I imagine that you are interested in learning what makes the University of Iowa Honors Program unique and how you might benefit from being a member.

You may not have heard of my hometown, Mount Vernon, Iowa. It is on the smaller side, with a population of about 4,500 people. My high school graduating class was only 100 students, so I was *very* nervous for my first day on campus at the University of Iowa, which seemed massive in comparison. Regardless of how big your hometown is or whether or not you are nervous about going to college, as an Honors student you will have a community as soon as you step foot on campus. Being in the Honors Program aided my transition to college because I was able to meet and befriend other Honors students in the first few weeks of college by living in Daum Residence Hall, attending Honors Primetime, and taking Honors classes my first semester. Throughout my college experience I have been continuously thankful for the Honors community around me.

The Honors Program has helped me grow and develop as a student and as a person each semester. As an Honors student I have been challenged to seek out transformative opportunities by the University of Iowa Honors Program's unique Experiential Learning component, which encourages students to "learn by doing". There are tons of options for you to "learn by doing" at the University of Iowa! I have enriched my learning through doing undergraduate research in a lab on campus that is studying how environmental factors like alcohol use and stress impact the brain. Additionally, I recently completed an 8-month Software Engineering Internship at Collins Aerospace which gave me real-world experience in the field of Engineering and even swayed me to change my major so I can be better equipped to get a career in software engineering or a similar field in the future. These opportunities helped me gain valuable experience and skills that transfer to both the classroom and my future career, while simultaneously helping me get Honors Program Credit.

I hope that you consider the University of Iowa in your college search. As a Hawkeye, you will have access to a world-class education in an amazing college town. On top of that, you will also have the opportunity to grow as a scholar and build authentic relationships as a member of the University of Iowa Honors Program.

I wish you luck in your college search and Go Hawks!

Noelle