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Honors American National Government, Honors Sociology, Honors Philosophy, Honors History of the American People since 1877

Graduation: Spring of 2018



When I started at NWACC I did not know anyone, having not originally planned to attend this school. I decided to join the Honors Program to meet people and have a more intimate class setting. I did not know the impact of the new friends I would make in the honors lounge, nor the amazing colleagues that would help truly fulfill my educational experiences in the classroom. Some might say I lucked out with this decision. My classmates challenged me, alongside the teachers, to always strive for better than before. I began wanting to know more, do more, and understand more. The program had me out volunteering and doing real research in the world we live in. Thanks to the Honors Program, I feel more connected to the school and more sympathetic toward the community I will continue to grow up in.

Experiences:

The most memorable outcome of the Honors Program was the people who influenced me, the scholarships provided to me, and the honors lounge.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of surrounding yourself with the right people. The Honors Program harbors intellectuals of many different backgrounds and outlooks. They have changed my mind over things I thought to be impossible on several occasions. Moreover, I have a broader understanding of the importance of different opinions. Opinions are meant to be wide and far so that we have a choice of perspective. However, the program is delicate in teaching students to respect these differences. We grow from this new knowledge rather than tune out or become combative. The various people I have met within it have made me into a well-rounded and sophisticated person.

The program is more than just a place to find connections and unique class settings; it also gives back. I was given a scholarship by the Honors Program as well as an award as an outstanding student. How could I not join something that would give back to me? The Program also helps its students give back to others by providing many outlets to assist both the school and the community.

Speaking of their gifts to me, I wish I had utilized the honors lounge more when I was a first-year student, but as an outgoing sophomore, it has been a saving grace. The

lounge is a wonderful place to study and gives access to free printing. More times than I am likely to admit, I snoozed on the couch they graciously provided.

Preparing a Future:

Beyond the resources the Honors Program provides, its greatest gift is what it did for me in my habits and for my mentality. It challenged me in my writing, my work ethic, and even my people skills. Every class I took in the program pushed me for more. My history course forced me to write like I'd never written before. My teachers always loved my writing, and prior to this class one might have found me saying writing was an easy A. My "History of the American People since 1877" class retaught me how to write and prepared me for what a professor at a University would expect of me.

I mentioned the improvement in my work ethic as well, which is my favorite new skill set. I have never been good at keeping an agenda, and if anything, my memory for assignments and due dates has certainly improved! Every class I took gave a fair amount of assignments, sometimes even close together in due dates. I had to become very mindful of prioritizing assignments and managing my time. Now I say this not as a deterrent, because the assignments were not necessarily difficult in most cases. More so, they tested my ability to complete the task without worrying about unnecessary embellishments that often get over-emphasized in high school. I learned to do things in efficient timing with both conciseness and precision.

Furthermore, the program courses consistently encouraged class discussion, rather than class lectures. I may be occasionally prone to dozing off in a long lecture, but never when I might be asked for my opinion or input. The teachers also assigned group work over projects that were not easy. This prepared me for professional work settings and improved my communicating skills.

For the more material skill sets I obtained, I would place knowledge of my country at the highest. I am heading towards a more science-oriented degree; however, I cannot neglect the importance of understanding how the country I live in functions. I purposely took Honors courses in Philosophy, History, Government, and Sociology so that I could see how the country got to its current place, how it is operating, and why it is operating as it does. Thus, I might become a more educated civilian in voting and partaking in the nations systems.

Of these classes I believe Honors Sociology reshaped my mentality the most. Its thorough examination of our culture and social networks gave me a deep understanding of the traditions and principles we go by here in America. I now pride myself in knowing why I make certain choices and how my country influenced me to join in these behaviors.

I greatly enjoyed feeling that I played a real part in my class education. I also relish in the knowledge and skills the program classes provided me. This program set me on a path to success that I will follow into a university.

The Key to Success:

For anyone looking into the Honors Program, why question if you would like to better succeed? The honors program can give you more personal engagement with teachers, more involvement in your community, and relationships with people who want to lift you up in life. The Honors Program is not a question; it is the answer to a greater education.

For those joining, this is where you get to shine, engaged, and have a voice. Work hard and reap the many benefits.

Getting involved:





This is a large horse barn located in Bentonville. It might serve as a boarding farm or sport riding facility to some, but for many it is a blessing. Horses for Healing is a therapeutic riding barn dedicated to helping children with disabilities learn, engage, and recover. Here children have spoken for the first time, made friends for the first time, and taken their first steps. It is built by kind hearted individuals (as part of the PATH intl.) who love children and long to make a difference for those that the world often leaves behind.

The honors program requires with every class a project, whether in research or service learning. I have volunteered with therapeutic riding for six years and bargained to use it as my service learning outside of the ones the college offers. I am honored to

have worked alongside those individuals and proud of the work put in to help teach the children about equine history.

Other times I have written research papers for my classes such as *The convergence of mass media: Elites and owners of media's power to shape culture*. In that paper I concluded that "Media and advertisement in the hands of the few elite[s], has the ability to psychologically mold schemas and consumption, to both shape the culture and create cultural access through acceptance (ideologically, physically, etc.) and purchase. Once more, the class dominate theory holds a strong ground as seen through this evaluation. It seems that when operating media correctly and cunningly, the elites do have the power to control culture through media dominance."

No matter which path I choose, I always gained so much in my honors courses. There is no price on what I learned and achieved in the Honors Program.