

# Honors Portfolio



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## **Honor Courses**

- ❖ Intro to Philosophy,  
Honors
- ❖ Public Speaking, Honors
- ❖ General Geology, Honors
- ❖ Introduction to Theatre,  
Honors

## **Graduation Date**

Summer of 2019

In my two years of attending NWACC, I could proudly say that being a part of the Honors Program offered a new view on how fellow students can help one another to make themselves, their college, and the community better. I got a first glimpse of this in my first few weeks of being a part of the Honors program because I was welcomed into the honors room by an ambitious group of students with a constant hello to anyone and everyone who entered its doors. These same fellow members along with newcomers would be seen willing to help one another in succeeding by offering advice on formerly taken classes, homework, or locations around the school. These fellow students would make a person curious about what classes they should be taking by hearing the unique stories that would occur during classes. Examples of these are the ones I'd recommend to fellow students who had to take Honor Courses such as:

Intro to Philosophy, Honors: I would tell them that I enjoyed the fact the Professor would do lectures as well as allow the student to participate with their own theories/discussion during class while answering the question and connecting them to the lesson.

Public Speaking, Honors: I would tell them that I'd enjoyed the professor for this class since he allowed us to write and perform our speeches with our own quirks, bringing in a fake Emmy. He would also guide us throughout the process by showing us the correct format and give us practice time before speaking it in front of the class

General Geology, Honors: I'd tell them that I enjoyed this teacher, Professor Phillips, because she managed to teach the students with hands-on experience such as going to a nature walk to observe rocks near waterfalls.

Introduction to Theatre, Honors: I'd tell them that I enjoyed the small class size which allowed more standing and performing rather than simply sitting in a chair all class.

Especially when it came to the act of acting with props such as a giant box.

These discussions would allow people to offer their own perspectives as there would be students who would want to focus on the homework part of the class or the learning aspect of class or the activities/ participation required in class. It's these question that allowed some to offer personal statements as follow:

Intro to Philosophy, Honors: The class wasn't too demanding of participation, but it was welcoming to it with little homework and "great" understanding of the class.

Public Speaking, Honors: The class was demanding with participation, with weekly homework, and a good comprehension of the course.

General Geology, Honors: The class was demanding participation daily so that you could understand the hands-on experience of geology, with little homework, and stupendous PowerPoints that offered real life daily footage to understand the importance of this class.

Introduction to Theatre, Honors: The class was too demanding with class participation since it was a smaller size to others and needed everyone in class, but it had little homework, and you left with a basic understanding of the arts thanks to reading/practicing of plays.

These topics of discussion where usually fun to listen to yet, the focus wasn't always on school as there were times, we would want to ease the tension or stress of it by bringing food for others, offering encouragement or jokes, or simply turning on the TV and chilling. It's this type of welcoming tone that made it easy to communicate with one another especially if we as Honors wish to accomplish various activities such as Book Donation, Valentine Cards to the nursing home, cleaning up the highway, etc. It would be during these activities that as a group we'd have to make time throughout our semester to perform the acts as well as come up with new ideas to raise funds for the program or bring joy to people. A great example of this was the Avengers

bake sale which was suggested by a fellow member and did great as a fundraiser as well as offering a new experience when we had to track down the treats, table, and cloth for the second day of the bake sale.

It's these kind of experiences with the Honors Program that have made my college life so great by first establishing a safe space for me to come study, and work on homework during any time of the day. It also gave me a place where I could relax after an exam, complete projects/assignments, or enjoy my lunch with fellow friends who've taken similar classes. It's during these times that I'm allowed to make good connections with people even if it was just for the semester. These aspects will be important to me coming the Spring of 2019 when I transfer to a University environment since it'll give me a place to hopefully look forward to in my education career. In this Honors program it has made me feel thrilled to take advanced courses for the following reasons:

1. The teachers would give me something to look forward to since most of my honor teachers would show their passion of the subject by how electrified or thorough, they were on teaching the subject and making sure every student understood it
2. The small class sizes didn't necessarily make me feel like I was one in a million by the fact the classes themselves show more activity on the subject by its variety of teaching methods which didn't stick to "standard" school learning.
3. The students who be found taking these advance courses could be found in similar classes further along which would offer a chance at a friendship that could really on both of us aiding one another especially when it comes down to homework/projects.

These class experiences would also offer new skills such as communication and studying practices because during times of difficulty I had to know who/when to ask for help. It also forced study habits because if I knew there were times that I needed to use a computer or the aid of a person I had to find time to accomplish said task especially if I was expected to make it to class on time. Yet, it's during these experiences that a person may end up with a hilarious tale of trying to accomplish said task.

A wonderful example of this was an experience I had while being in honors. I had to print off an assignment on the second day of the honor's avengers bake sale in which a few honor students realized the sale stand wasn't up yet. At the time there was only four of us in the honors room, but we knew what we had to do; however, figuring out how was the trickier bit. One of us agreed to set up the table while another had to get the Honors banner for it while me and the remain person set off to locate the bake goods. The two of us had to use our communication skills to ask teachers if they had any idea were the group from yesterday had placed the baked goods eventually tracking them done to separate parts of Burns Hall. We had to borrow a cart from a teacher than make our way throughout the building collecting our goods in a timely manner since two of us would soon have to leave for class but we managed to set up the stand and decide who was going to watch the stand. Fortunately, we solved this in a manner of moments before we each headed in our direction with me running to print off my assignment. It's this small experience that reminded me that team work makes the dream work even for something as simple as this.

As for any advice I'd give to up and coming college students I'd say there was a tale as old as time in which school life is hard but so is life so you better buckle down with confidence and determination because this is going to be a fun ride for you.