

Ryan Howard



Honors Courses.

- Art Appreciation
- English composition
- English Composition II
- Introduction to philosophy
- Survey of World Literature to 1650
- World Civilization to 1500
- World Civilization 1500-Present
- History of American people since 1877

Graduating Spring 2023 Associates of Science – Liberal Arts and Science.

Community, Curiosity, Diversity

As a nontraditional student in my 30's I was very apprehensive about returning to school for my Associates degree while still making time for my family and pursuing a career. As you can imagine I didn't even consider joining the honors program as an option, so I was very surprised when I was invited to join. I thought there was no way I could possibly have enough time to participate in honors classes and engage in the honors program, so I turned down the invitation to join several times my first semester, however after a long discussion and a lot of encouragement from Sabrina Chesne about how much more honors classes were focused on discussion, and group based learning as well as how much flexibility the honors program offers a nontraditional student I crossed my fingers and took the chance to join. Today I am very happy I did and grateful for the many offers and encouragement to join I received; honors classes turned out to be much more engaging and enjoyable for me. I especially enjoyed taking world civilization with Seven Gallo this class looks at our history and cultures through the lens of food, not only did I learn a lot without even realizing it this class was downright fun, and is a great example of learning through group discussion. every few weeks the class would meet to eat food from a particular region of the world we were studying and discuss the cultural and historical contributions of the societies we were studying. I really enjoyed this because I feel like we learned more about the actual people of cultures instead of just one "great man" who represents them all or a cursory overview of their government and since these meeting were discussion based I got the opportunity to hear observations, insights, and opinions that I would not have been exposed to through textbooks or even thought about while working individually I

also really loved the classes when we met to eat because it gave me the opportunity to get out into the community and interact with the many cultures from around the world who live in our own back yard and learn about these cultures over food that I would never have been exposed to otherwise I definitely noticed people are much more open and communitive when food is involved, and who doesn't love a great meal!?

Preparation.



Being part of the honors program has taught me a lot about working with others in group conditions as an introverted person I tend to be very nervous about working with others, but everyone I interacted with at NWACC especially in the honors program was very encouraging and welcoming which helped me build my confidence and taught me how to interact with others on an elevated and more professional level. All the encouragement and social skills I have learned from working with others has enabled me to sincerely

enjoy participating in group activities and develop a love to learn other people's ideas, thoughts, and opinions especially if they differ from my own. It has also encouraged me to be a more open, thoughtful, and empathetic person and is undoubtedly a skill I will lean on and utilize for the rest of my life.

Experience.

Unfortunately I only got to participate once before the covid pandemic but one of the best experiences I had in the honors program was participating in the "J" street clean up. Unfortunately I usually don't have a lot of time to volunteer within the community, but was able to make time to meet with the honors program and participate in cleaning up a section of "J" street in Bentonville and despite how it sounds ended up having an amazing amount of fun picking up trash and serving our community with the many fantastic friends I have made



on my journey through NWACC, it was a very fulfilling and satisfying project and it always feels good to contribute back to the community I was raised in. Participating in the "J" street clean up provided a sense of accomplishment and gratification. I cannot wait to participate again if I have the chance.

Future Students

Future students,

My biggest piece of advice to you is don't wait! take every opportunity that is placed in front of you, and to really put your heart and soul into the learning experience you receive at NWACC, if you are going to do it, go big and get the most out of your time and energy.

In the few years I have attended NWACC I have had an amazing amount of opportunities to grow as a person and student placed in front of me and at first I was overly cautious and didn't give myself the credit I should have, I was very nervous about taking on too much and boxed myself in, however I quickly found that if I had faith in myself and leaned on the encouragement and support of all the amazing people in the honors program my experience at NWACC was dramatically better and much more fulfilling. Take that honors class! Join the study abroad program! Take the opportunities to participate in the community, you will be amazed at the incredible roads that open up to you if you are just willing to say yes!