

I started HONORS 100 this quarter with some understanding about what the Interdisciplinary Honors program was like with my research about it when applying, but I'm now ending this quarter feeling much more informed and prepared about how I can involve myself in the Honors community. I learned about different alumni experiences in the program from the alumni panel, the many courses and perspectives of professors from the professor panel and Global challenges, and opportunities to get involved on campus with Experiential Learning and from my peer educator. I learned about planning my coursework in the Personal Curriculum Plan, which also allowed me to learn about all these different courses and Honors courses at the university.

It's interesting to join the Interdisciplinary Honors Program a second-year as I feel that the community in my current cohort is mostly made up of first years, so our experiences are more different there. I was glad to meet with other second-year students in the HONORS 100 section every couple of weeks. I learned that there are surprisingly many other Honors students in my major and classes as well, so it was nice to make more friends in this community and share this common experience in college.

I also started an experiential learning experience this quarter, which was ironically around the same time we researched experiential learning activities for a partner in our section. Before this quarter, I was worried about what that requirement meant and how I could find time to complete it with difficult coursework and work also needing to be considered in how I use my time. Surprisingly, it was not as intimidating as I had imagined it to be. I was able to reach out to the professor, draft and submit my proposal successfully, and meet with team members each week for the experience and to share progress. I'm really glad that the Honors program motivated me to pursue this experience, and rather than it being a requirement, it was more encouraging for me to go ahead and try the experience out. I've learned a lot about what a collaborative code base looks like, what research can entail, and how I can use skills I learned from class to contribute to an active project. As I'm writing my end of quarter experiential learning reflection alongside this autumn quarter reflection, it feels incredible that the quarter is already coming to an end. I'm excited to continue working on the project next quarter with my peers!

I'm not sure where I might be at the end of my first year in Honors. I know that I want to continue exploring research, learning and taking classes in my major, and enjoying the Honors classes. Sadly I have not been able to register for any Honors classes yet due to schedule conflicts, but I'm excited for when I can get a change in Spring quarter. I also hope my next experiential learning activity will broaden my horizons and show me new ways to apply my learning beyond just research. Until next year!

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