

Naeco Pasternak

Honors 100

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I entered the University of Washington after having left my home state of Colorado, where I used to attend Colorado State University (CSU). There have been plenty of times this semester where I felt the honors system was better at CSU; the honors courses were smaller and more cozy, the honors student body was incredibly tight-knit, and competition for opportunities were plentiful and easy to get into. Which was why I was incredibly unprepared for the honors program at the university of washington.

Competition is harsh. Resources are limited, and a moment's worth of slack can mean dozens of opportunities lost. Although it is unpleasant to live through, it is not a bad thing whatsoever. You cannot hide away from your bad qualities, because you cannot escape from them here. If you have bad time management, issues with procrastination, or poor motivation, you will have to face and conquer them in the honors program.

What surprised me the most in my first quarter here was how poor my time management was, how much I procrastinated, and how little motivation I had to begin with. What surprised me about the University of Washington was how much it would force me to face my worst qualities.

I've learned a lot about the resources here on campus from this course, and there are plenty of things I would like to explore further. To begin with, I would like to research more on the Student Technology Loan Program. Recently my laptop died, and I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to loan out a working laptop for the next few semesters while I get that issue fixed. In addition to that, I might have to stop by the UW Food Pantry in the Winter Quarter.

By the end of my first year in Honors, I would like to have gotten into research, and continue improving my time management skills. I hope to join an academic fraternity, either the engineering or medical fraternity on campus, and participate in more career-based events on campus. Furthermore, I would like to improve my networking skills, and join some clubs to get to know more people at the university.

In general, I do feel confident about moving forward in honors and in college. I've taken time off from college in the past, about a year and a half, and the experience was not incredibly positive. There are no real career opportunities, and the work you do find is never fulfilling. In a sense, no matter how I feel about college at any given moment, my fear of going back to a no-degree life will always be greater than the fear of stress or intensity from college life.

Although, there is one thing that continues to worry me, and will continue to worry me throughout my time at the university. Due to the rising costs of living in Colorado, my family resorted to moving to Aberdeen, WA, where the cost of living is, at the very least, attainable. However, the quality of life there is incredibly low. My best chance of bringing them back to their home hinges on excelling at this institution. My goal is to secure a well-paying job in the future, allowing me to financially support and reunite my family in the place they wish to be.