

Elizabeth Peterson

Dr. Leah White

HONR 375

August 29, 2023

Why Honors?

I joined the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato in the Fall of 2022 during my first semester of college. To be completely honest, when I first joined the Honors Program I did not completely understand what the organization consisted of. After taking HONR 201, I learned about each of the three competencies, expectations as an Honors student, and engaged in some Honors Program activities. Being a first-year student, I found the program to be super helpful in getting well acquainted at MNSU. I have decided to remain in the Honors Program because it has shown me a sense of community on campus, provided me with many great opportunities, and allowed me to organize my college experiences in a centralized place.

The Honors Program has shown me an overall sense of community and belonging in several ways. I was able to meet some great people in the introductory 201 course that I will occasionally see on campus and greet. It is also interesting to hear about the experiences that other students have engaged in while in Honors. I will say, the Honors lounge is a large perk as well. Having a centralized place to study, print homework materials, grab a coffee, or heat my lunch has been great. Going into 375 I hope to make many more meaningful connections with my peers and members of the community.

Honors has provided me with many great opportunities such as events to attend to engage in the organization as well as communities outside of Honors. Last year I attended one of the outdoor events with games and ice cream. I was also given the opportunity to attend the American Indian Night, and because of this positive experience, I hope to attend more culture

nights on campus. This year I was able to go to the welcome picnic event where I was able to connect with a lot of new people. Going into my junior year, I do not have many interactions with peers outside of my major, so I enjoy hearing about other careers and majors from the Honors community. I also love receiving the Honors newsletter every Monday to tell me what is happening on campus and also with the Honors Program.

I have remained in the Honors Program because it has allowed me to have a centralized place for all of my college experiences. The core of the program includes the three competencies of leadership, intercultural engagement, and research, scholarly, and creative activity. I have enjoyed how in Honors you can organize all your application and developmental competencies into the portfolio. I believe that the portfolio will be helpful to me in various ways. I will be able to present my portfolio to future employers and in a professional setting. I also look forward to sharing my portfolio with family and friends to recap my time during college. By completing my portfolio, I think I will feel a sense of accomplishment and hopefully feel that I got a lot out of my college experience.

Overall, I believe that the Honors Program will continue to make a positive impact on me both professionally and personally. I hope to gain a newfound sense of communication and critical thinking skills from the competencies. The Honors Program has pushed me out of my comfort zone and shown me leadership skills and qualities. I am excited to see what is to come, and also for my remaining experiences.