



HONORS PORTFOLIO

Austin Parker

Courses:

- ARHS 1003H – Art Appreciation
- PROG 1003H – Programming Logic I
- PHIL 2003H – Introduction to Philosophy
- SOCI 2013H – General Sociology

Graduated Spring 2024 – Associate of Science
in Liberal Arts and Sciences STEM (Industrial
Engineering Transfer Pathway)

Section 1- Impacts of the Program

The main thing that drew me into the Honors program was the diverse selection of engaging and challenging classes. Honors courses provide a facet to delve deeper into subjects, exploring and applying concepts on a higher level than what would be expected in a normal class. During my time in Honors classes, I had to challenge myself to build a refined understanding of different subject matters, and I had to mold that understanding into a form that could be applied to the unique and challenging objectives presented by honors assignments. In classes like Programming Logic I, I was presented with additional requirements that pushed me to further engage with course materials and learn how to practically apply the concepts discussed in class.

In this assignment from Programming Logic I, I was tasked with creating a table that increments upwards and downwards while outputting the information for different numbers covered on the table's path. The honors expectations for this assignment required me to format the table in a way that had clean spacing, as shown below, as well as text that indicated if the number was even or prime. In addition to the experience that would be gained from completing this project normally, the honors part of the assignment gave me an opportunity to further explore the topics of string formatting and processing within Python. Through the honors component of this assignment (and the course as a whole), I was challenged to further engage with programming, ultimately helping me to build a better understanding of, and ability to apply, different structures and concepts.

In another one of my classes, Art Appreciation, I was presented with a final paper that tasked me with researching and discussing art's relationship with a subject of my choosing. Thanks to the open-ended nature of the assignment, I was free to focus the paper on art's relationship and history with advertising. Rather than having to follow some pre-constructed path and topic with this assignment, it instead gave me free rein to explore and apply the concepts that we had learned throughout the semester toward a topic that I found to be personally interesting and engaging. While working on the paper, I was given an opportunity to explore and present some of the different ways that art has historically been leveraged to build and strengthen advertising campaigns, such as how our modern construction of Santa has been influenced by art created and spread by the Coca-Cola company, and how the architecture of banks is often designed in a way that exaggerates the overall structure of the bank in order to build a sense of stability. Working on this paper, and my time in the class as a whole, helped me explore outside of the more technical subjects and writing styles that I'm usually more familiar with, allowing me to build confidence in my ability to understand and critically analyze artistic subject matters. The skills that I built during my time in this class helped prepare me for other courses that I took down the line (namely philosophy) and, most importantly, helped me build confidence in my ability to engage with non-STEM-based courses.

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Enter the starting number: 4
Enter the ending number: 28
Enter the increment: 3

FOR LOOP counting up:
Number Squared Root Even Prime
=====
4      16  2.00 Even Composite
7      49  2.65 Odd Prime
10     100 3.16 Even Composite
13     169 3.61 Odd Prime
16     256 4.00 Even Composite
19     361 4.36 Odd Prime
22     484 4.69 Even Composite
25     625 5.00 Odd Composite
28     784 5.29 Even Composite

WHILE LOOP counting down:
Number Squared Root Even Prime
=====
28     784 5.29 Even Composite
25     625 5.00 Odd Composite
22     484 4.69 Even Composite
19     361 4.36 Odd Prime
16     256 4.00 Even Composite
13     169 3.61 Odd Prime
10     100 3.16 Even Composite
7      49  2.65 Odd Prime
4      16  2.00 Even Composite
```

Ultimately, honors courses encourage a level of thought and engagement beyond normal expectations, helping students to build an environment and breadth of knowledge that helps them excel in their personal, academic, and professional lives. The courses that I took while I was a member of the honors program helped me develop a better understanding of various fields as they relate to my own interests. The skills and knowledge that I gained during my time in honors Programming Logic have helped inform how I go about learning, documenting, and coding solutions in higher level programming courses like Programming Foundations I and II, and the skills that I gained in honors sociology have helped inform my overall view of humanity and the various mechanisms that have helped to shape it. All in all, my experiences in honors courses have helped to shape my view of the world, giving me the tools needed to understand, critically analyze, and express my thoughts beyond what would otherwise be possible.

Section 2 – How Did the Program Prepare You?

Participation in the Honors program allows students to engage with a variety of subjects on a deeper and more personalized level than that offered by other classes. One of the main takeaways that I got from the Honors program was a way to generalize the tools and thought processes that I have learned through my interest and major in industrial engineering. One of the main principles used by industrial engineers is the process of breaking down complex systems into their individual components and then studying and refining those components to better understand and rebuild the whole process. The freedom and thoroughness of Honors classes allowed me to apply those same processes to subjects from a variety of different disciplines, such as the theories of knowledge from philosophy and the levels of socialization from sociology. Ultimately, I think the Honors program played a massive role in helping me generalize my knowledge of different fields, as well as the processes that I use to learn and engage with different materials. Additionally, the program has served to help me develop a mentality of continual improvement, pushing me to ask, research, and eventually answer questions about the world and its inhabitants.

Section 3 – An Experience That You Would Like to Share

My overall best experience as a member of the Honors program was my participation in the Honors game night. While I was initially hesitant to attend the game night due to having just



been given a homework assignment, I couldn't be gladder about my participation. The game night was an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with other Honors members, and it helped me feel like a part of something greater. During the game night, I reconnected with another student that I hadn't spoken to since the end of a class that we both took the previous semester, and I had a wonderful time learning about and immediately losing at Magic the Gathering. Overall, the game night was just a great opportunity to unwind and interact with my fellow Honors

program members, and I am extremely happy that I was given the opportunity to participate.

Section 4 – Advice for New Members

My advice to new members would be to challenge yourself, both inside of and outside of the classroom. The greatest way to learn and grow as a person is through struggle, failure, and earned success. While it's absolutely easier, living life in a way that never pushes you toward the unknown will invariably lead to stagnation. If you continually desire to learn from your mistakes and develop into a better version of yourself, no person, event, or circumstance will be able to rob you of your future. Also, I would recommend investing in a coffee maker or any comparable source of caffeine.