



Paige Titsworth

Graduation: May 2026, Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Honors Courses:

English Composition II, Honors

Introduction to Gender Studies, Honors

Survey of British Literature to Romanticism, Honors

World Civilization from 1500, Honors

Community, Curiosity, Diversity

I was apprehensive about taking honors classes when I started NWACC. The first chance I got as a kid I started taking advanced classes all the way up until I graduated high school. My mental health suffered greatly from the stress of the classes, so I told myself I would avoid honors classes in college. The first semester I kept this promise— that was until a certain Gender Studies class caught my attention and my English Composition I professor encouraged me to take the next composition course through honors. After thinking over it for a while, I decided to try it out. After all, I could always stop if I did not like it. Not only did I end up enjoying the classes, my English Composition II professor was the head of the Honors Program and helped me decide to enter the program. She listened to my worries about the workload and if the classes would be too much for me, and she reassured me that the program and classes were nothing like

my high school ones. Her words helped me finalize my decision and she was completely right; the honors classes gave me new ways to learn instead of a pile of class work.



Me after my book discussion.

My favorite part about honors is the projects. I was able to explore the subjects in ways other than just listening to a lecture. In my Gender Studies class, there were two moments that helped me as a person. For the Spring Arts and Culture event, I and two others headed a book discussion in front of our class, the book club, and several others. The book was *Sissy* by Canese Jarboe. This was incredibly nerve-wracking for me as I have always been quiet and anxious when speaking in front of large crowds. I ended up enjoying the discussion and loved that we were able to share someone's writings with others. A part of our presentation had people scan a QR code to look at a website connected to the book. We wanted the audience to feel connected to the book and engaged. Looking back, I am very glad I agreed to talking about the book at the event. The other moment in my Gender Studies class that helped me was our final project. We were able to

choose the topic of the project as long as it pertained to the course subject. My topic was "Modern Views of Gender". I explored what people envisioned when they thought of men, women, and transgender individuals. I had people draw what they immediately saw when I told them those genders and put the drawings on a poster. I included my own as well. The results were very interesting because it tells more than gender— it shows race and stereotypes. This project has been my favorite because of how much it shows. Once people started drawing, it made me curious as to what the next person would draw. Gender Studies was an amazing class to take and helped me see new perspectives.



"Modern Views of Gender" Project

My taste palette has always been weak. Unfortunately, there are not many foods and drinks that I like. For a while I would not try new dishes because I assumed I would not like them— then I took World Civilizations. This class had a very interesting way of learning, through food. We learned about people, civilizations, and conflicts through their culture and dishes. We would sometimes have class at local restaurants and eat while discussing a lesson. Our big project was to pick a place that had a conflict and tell the history through food by making the food yourself. Although I do not like many foods, I stuck with the class. I tried the dishes made by my peers and made Haitian food myself. I normally do not cook so this was a learning experience for me. Learning through food is much more interesting than learning through a presentation



A dish at BEK in Rogers for my Civ class.

or a textbook because you get to see the shifts in culture and how food is affected by conflicts. Even though I ended up not liking most of the dishes, I still tried them which is an achievement. This is what I like most about Honors, you learn in a different way.

Preparation

The Honors Program helped me the most with leadership skills. Since I was a kid I have always been shy and quiet, and while I still am, for the most part, quiet, I am better at being able to speak in front of people. The Spring Arts and Culture event I mentioned played a big part as that reduced my anxiety for speaking at events. Sharing my writings and projects with my peers in these classes has made me less scared of facing criticism, and I now enjoy receiving criticism because it means I can continue to improve. Through these gained and improved skills, I felt confident enough in becoming the president of one of the clubs I was a part of and I loved it. Without the skills the program gave me, I would not have felt I was ready for such a position. While I am still growing in these skills, I am more prepared and confident for my future university experience and career.

Experiences

I really did not have one specific experience that stuck with me, but multiple. I always thought professors were strict and harsh and that I should just stick to myself, but all of my honors professors proved that wrong. The first time I was proved wrong was by Professor Chesne in my English Comprehension II class when she convinced me to join the program. She made me feel welcomed and reassured me that the program would not stress me out as much as I thought it would. She was always incredibly helpful when it came to essay help and understanding when I was struggling. Professor Jones for my British Literature class made the class fun and not stressful. She loved my projects which meant a lot to me because they were of my art, which I had missed doing. My World Civilizations professor, Professor Gallo, showed me that professors can be fun while also being, well, a professor. She would engage in our conversations while also balancing the lesson and showed that she really enjoyed her subject. She also showed that there are many ways to learn about something and not just through lectures. Professor Craig, my Gender Studies professor, showed me that professors are just like us. My honors professors changed how I see college professors, and I'm very happy that I was able to experience their classes.

Advice

My advice for new members is to not be scared and just try it. I regret not joining my first semester because of how scared I was about how hard the classes would be. There are so many opportunities you can miss out on by not trying them. If you end up not liking it, at least you tried. The Honors Program gives you so many skills and experiences that can help you. The community is amazing and offers a great support system. Without joining this program, I would not be the person I am today. I would not have been confident enough to lead a club, speak in front of crowds, try a bunch of new foods, or try things that scare me. Take those opportunities, brave past those risks, and celebrate on how far you have come and how far you will go.



Me reading a piece of my creative writing in front of a room of people.