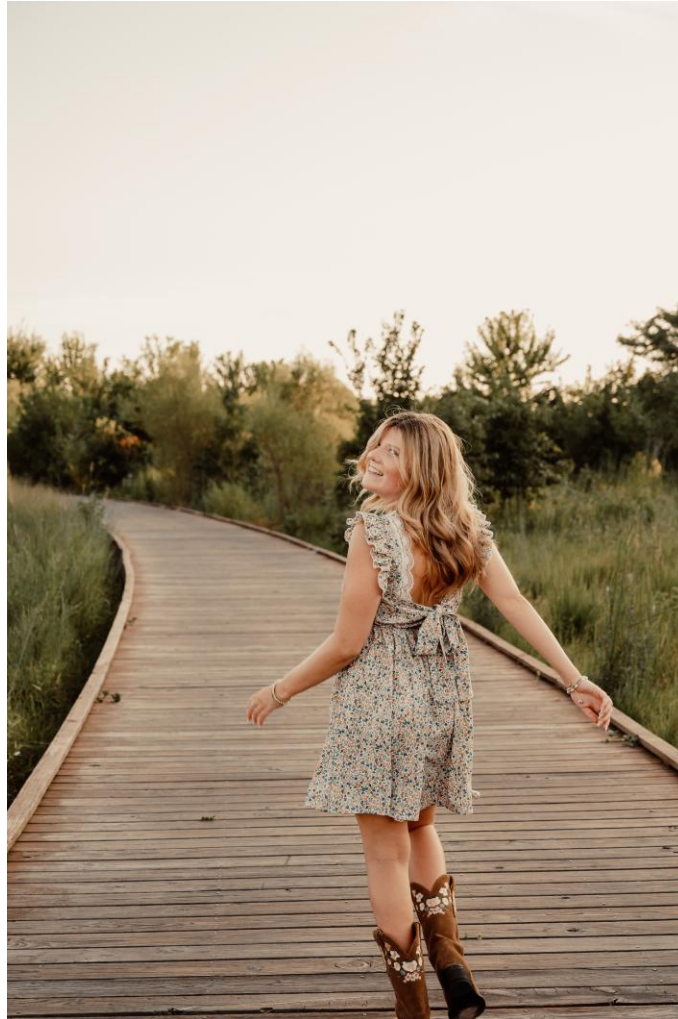


Taylor Mackie



Graduation: May 2026

Honors Courses Taken:

SOCI 2013H – General Sociology, Honors

PHIL 2003H – Introduction to Philosophy, Honors

ANTH 1023H – Intro to Culture Anthropology, Honors

Section 1: Community, Curiosity, and Diversity

The NWACC Honors Program has helped me understand, learn, and appreciate my community and those around me. Taking honors courses specifically immersed in people, culture, and the world itself allowed me to be more open to new things, as well as encouraging myself to explore my curiosity. Being in honors courses has introduced me to new perspectives and ideas as I've enjoyed being able to converse with other members of the program. For example, the intro to culture anthropology course I'm currently taking is full of discussion and ideas from students in the class. I enjoy discussion days with the professor as we tackle controversial topics about culture, race, or language because I get the chance to hear other thoughts and opinions which allow me to make connections. I also enjoyed giving back as I volunteered in the Fall 2025 J Street Clean Up; me and fellow honors members picked up trash along J Street in Bentonville. Giving back to the community while getting to know other members in the Honors Program was a memorable opportunity to build connections. While being a part of the Honors Program, learning more about culture and traditions from my peers in the courses has been the key takeaway for me throughout the semesters. Hearing stories, sharing thoughts, and learning about new cultures is something that kept me intrigued and curious during class. Various cultures I've gotten to hear about in class have been the Hispanic/Latino, Honduran, Vietnamese, and German cultures as well as many more. The connections and relationships I've made with members and professors is something I value most from this program rather than just the exams or final grade. As hearing new perspectives from those has expanded my knowledge and curiosity, the Honors Program is filled with more than just challenging academics.

Section 2: Soft Skills

Taking honors courses alone has opened new opportunities for me to learn how to communicate and connect with my fellow peers. For example, taking Intro to Sociology not only allowed me to learn about society and groups of people, but I was also able to practice that material with my peers in collecting data and seeing how a society works. I personally enjoy the honors projects towards the end of the semesters as they expand my knowledge, comfort zone, and skills to work with others. I plan to attend Arkansas State University starting in the Fall 2026 term where I hope to use my communication skills with my peers, professors, and clinical coordinators. Being in the Honors Program not only has helped me connect better with students, but also with customers, co-workers, and my managers as I continue to learn how to problem-solve with new people every day. I plan to take my problem-solving, patient, openness, and mindfulness skills that I've practiced with my peers and continue to apply them to future interactions with new students and professors at Arkansas State. I developed most of these skills within the classroom as I've interacted with students about course concepts. For example, weekly discussions were held during my culture anthropology class which allowed me to share my opinions and hear my peers' opinions to make connections and expand my knowledge. Most of my memorable moments in the Honors Program are held within the classroom as I felt like I was able to try new projects comfortably with people I had time to get to know. My presentation skills were also improved as I spent most of my time preparing to present my projects. Although I am still learning, I liked being able to present something that interested me because it made me feel more comfortable with what I was presenting on. With that, presenting, discussing, and

working with students in the program has opened a new door for me to practice my skills. Being able to perform these skills allowed me to work throughout the semesters to focus on improving certain skills I tend to struggle with. Fortunately, communication is a skill I was able to improve while here because of the projects, discussions, and assignments that honors courses offered.

Section 3: Personal Experience

Although I've had many wonderful experiences in and out of the classroom, my most memorable experience would be the Fall 2025 J Street trash clean up. I not only enjoy giving back to the community, but taking care of the place I call home is important to me too. I enjoyed getting to know some of the other honor members as they created a pleasant experience of being in the program. The trash clean up wasn't only a great way to give back to the community, but I also got the opportunity to meet new people and create potential relationships with the members outside of the classroom. It was a different way to get to know people and learn about their experiences in the program as well. While in the classroom, getting to work and present information I was curious about was a learning experience I hold onto as a student. I spent weeks outlining, creating, and interviewing friends on a topic that affects society as a whole. In that time, I also got to use NWACC research databases and scholarly journals to fulfill my curiosity and interests; then writing a research paper to show all my findings. Presenting this project was exciting as I was able to talk about something I invested most of my time in. Overall, meeting people and doing hands-on projects were the most memorable experiences for me. From

posterboards to presentations, being able to show others my thoughts, findings, and learn something new is what makes the Honors Program special. Honors courses also aided in my critical thinking skills as classes are meant to be more challenging, which is something I enjoy as a student looking to grow. I was introduced to several new concepts and topics that challenged my mind and educated me more in certain areas since this means most to me as a student.



Section 4: New Member Advice

As a member of the Honors Program, I spent the majority of my time at NWACC being involved in this program. I highly recommend going above and beyond within your classes as recognition and hard work rewards well. Thanks to one of the English Professors, Jacqueline Jones, she is the reason I was given the opportunity to even be a part of this program. During the program, please participate in any events as connection with others is important. Taking courses that spark your interest is important as well as honors courses typically require more commitment due to projects and assignments. Motivation and drive are crucial to this program because it allows you to be successful for however long you may be a part of the program. Apply yourself and take every opportunity the Honors Program has to offer.