



Scarlett Bobrowski
Graduating Spring 2022
Magna Cum Laude

Honors Courses:

- American Literature 1
- American Literature 2
- British Literature 1
- Comparative Politics

Section I

In what ways did the Program help you “demonstrate engagement,” “cultivate curiosity,” and “explore perspectives” (community, curiosity, and diversity)?

Being a part of the honors program is something I strived for the moment I

began college. I wanted to put my all into something greater and prove to myself just how much I could achieve academically. After taking a few years off from schooling upon graduating from high school, I decided to attend NWACC to further my education. When I began attending NWACC in January of 2020, I quickly discovered that there were many clubs and groups to join, but I didn't really know where I belonged. All of that changed when I was invited to join the honors program. I met many individuals with like minded goals and aspirations, who were welcoming and just as determined to progress academically. I was able to speak to other students in the honors program and have thought-provoking conversations about similar interests, which is something I hadn't experienced before joining. I learned about many ways to benefit the community through different projects sponsored by the honors program, as well as in honors courses. Getting to help others is the entire basis behind achieving what I'd like to do with my life, which is writing and teaching. While I am eager to learn more about the community around me, perspectives of others outside of our communities are important to me as well. With the guidance of Professor Jim Laughton, who teaches American Literature, I have expanded my knowledge greatly of the history of our country through literature. His discussions of cultural awareness and diversity has opened my eyes to many issues that our country faces, presently and historically. Learning about cultural differences and experiences has only furthered my passion to help other people. As far as outside of our country, Professor Jacqueline Jones, who teaches British Literature,

also enlightened me on the politics and problems outside of our country. I believe that in taking these classes and participating in the honors program, I have learned significantly more about others and gained an awareness of those around me. To understand the diversity of other cultures and perspectives is extremely important in life. For me, as someone who plans to become a published author, this is crucial information to have learned, as writing should be inclusive to all humans in all walks of life. Without the honors program and honors professors, I can't say I would have the same knowledge base that I do now.

Section II

How did this program prepare you for a university (or for a workplace, if you aren't transferring at this point)? What hard or soft skills will you take with you?

This program prepared me for both a career and to continue my education at a university. I acquired many important skills throughout my time in the honors program, but the one that had the most impact on me was learning how to research and present an academic honors poster. A poster I designed on Edgar Allan Poe and the study of how mental illness is evident throughout his pieces of literature was accepted to be presented at the Great Plains Honors Conference in Wichita, Kansas. This type of experience expanded my academic and professional skills, only furthering my research abilities in the workplace and at a four-year college. Another skill I have attained is learning how to write an argumentative synthesis essay. Gaining an understanding on how to cite multiple sources and using this information to defend your thesis, has actually helped me in writing other essays that are non-argumentative. When I transfer to a four-year college and eventually have to write a thesis paper in order to graduate, I know that I will have a much less difficult time considering all that I have learned in regard to writing essays in my honors courses. On top of everything else, being involved in the honors program has greatly influenced my way of thinking, as it has given me the confidence to believe that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to. Before starting at NWACC, I had no idea that I would achieve and learn so much in just two years. Yes, there are academic and professional skills that I will take with me throughout life, but nothing compares to the empowerment I feel from believing in myself enough to become an honors graduate. The support I have received from other students and professors in the honors program has had a major impact on who I have become as a person. I hope to use these skills throughout my entire life and utilize what I have learned to help other students like me achieve more than they ever thought possible.

Section III

What is one experience you had while a member that you'd like to share?

An amazing experience that I had while being a member of the honors program was the endless help and guidance that I received from multiple professors, but especially Professor Laughton. With his help in writing an abstract for the Great Plains Honors Conference, I was accepted to present an academic honors poster. I feel that this is my most meaningful experience, because it proved to me that there are instructors who truly care, encourage, and motivate you to succeed. During my experience in high school, I felt there were many teachers who didn't have faith in me to achieve my goals or pursue my dreams. The professors at NWACC have completely changed my perception, especially Professor Laughton. This was one of my greatest experiences in joining the honors program, because if I had not, I would not have received the advice and direction from outstanding professors such as Professor Laughton. His classes taught me so much academically, but overall, they revealed to me something much greater- what I would like to do with my life. While I have always wanted to become a published author, my time at NWACC has inspired me to become a professor. My goal is to teach others and hopefully change another student's life one day, like the professors at NWACC have changed mine.

Section IV

Considering all you have written for the above, what advice do you have for new members? This answer should be "short and sweet."

The advice that I would give to new members joining the honors program, is to give it your all. Take part in as many opportunities to help the community as you can and learn as much as possible in your classes. The honors professors are there to help you and will do whatever they can to ensure your success. The program itself is full of amazing opportunities that should be used to further your education and community involvement. Of course, we all have a life outside of school and cannot commit to every opportunity presented, but every time you can commit, go for it. It will only help you progress personally and academically. Above all, believe in yourself and never give up.