

Braxton Fair

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Why Honors?

The Honors program here at MNSU was one of the first campus activities I sought out after I decided to make this university my home for undergrad. I knew I wanted to be involved in something on campus, but I wasn't finding much that I really wanted to do. Greek life wasn't something I felt I could be a part of, I wasn't the most athletic so sports wasn't really on my radar, nor most clubs really felt like I could make a home of it. However, I have always been a good and motivated student, so finding an academic based group at the university I felt could also help me develop the skills I needed for graduate school.

Upon admittance to the program, I also decided to sign up for the Honors Launch learning community, because I was determined to find a group of friends in college. For my first year here in Mankato, I felt largely disconnected from the University, due to a plethora of reasons. For one, just finishing my senior year of high school and entering college during a new and polarized pandemic, was a foreign and scary prospect. Through this isolation, online classes, quarantines, limited activities, and little to no face-to-face time with my peers, contributed greatly to the disconnect between the University, it's students, the faculty, and myself. While I opted out of certain activities, whether sponsored by the Honors program, or the University, I do credit myself to some of the loneliness felt. However, the Honors Launch learning community

forced (in a mostly good way) me into at least getting some social interaction, which really did help. For example, I attended the meeting in which there was a discussion of the future of the Honors program as it relates to changing the curriculum and required classes (what a memory that meeting was). Despite the rocky start, I won't let that keep me from being more involved in the future.

As I stated earlier, I joined Honors because I wanted to develop my skills and myself professionally, because I do plan on attending graduate school after undergrad. The different competencies that are required to be met to graduate with honors, does really push me to work on my portfolio, and be more involved academically. While I do have a good list of developmental competencies done, and even some of the applications done, it does really push me to accomplish even more. Even in creating some of the reflections is motivating to get more done, and essentially 'prove' to myself and future graduate programs that I am a very strong student. I have heard those words most of my life through parents and some peers, but getting some of these activities done really does reinforce that idea for myself. With that being said, I hope in the future in the Honors program I do attend more events and get to know more people, as I don't know too many names or faces in the program. I hope to continue to be a peer mentor, and use the resources the Honors program gives me to keep pursuing higher education and setting myself up to succeed in the future.