

Dear Prospective Business Honors Student,

When I was in your shoes three years ago, applying to the Business Honors Program, I found myself asking, “is it worth it?” Maybe you’re wondering the same thing, or maybe you’re curious what it’s really like to be a member of this program. I’m here to share a student’s perspective on how this program changed the course of my college (and future) career. I hope that some of these anecdotes will resonate with you and entice you to apply to Business Honors.

Experiential Learning

Prior to starting the program, I wondered if “honors” simply meant an additional workload. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that it actually meant customized, experiential learning opportunities. The small class sizes and uniquely structured cohort courses allowed professors to get to know students on a personal level and facilitate hands on projects between us and local businesses. From day one, Honors courses not only challenged me, but also encouraged me to apply my learnings to real business situations and implement feedback from peers, professors, and professionals.

One of my favorite memories was in BA 308H when my team and I had the opportunity to collaborate with the Eugene Emeralds Minor League Baseball team to design an initiative to increase merchandise sales. It was this project that stood out to companies when I applied for internships as a sophomore, demonstrating to me that this honors experience would directly open many doors for my future.

Cohort Community

As a new cohort of 35 students, we nervously wandered into Lillis 255 for our first class at 7:50 a.m. on a Monday morning of fall term. I quickly realized that none of us knew what to expect of each other, the courses, or the program. Looking around two years later at our banquet, I wondered how I would have gotten through college without this supportive, diverse, and fun community that I *willingly* spent much of my time with, in and out of the classroom.

On an average day if you walked past Peterson 202 (our lounge), you’d probably see one of two things: either an extremely productive study group or students engrossed in a tangential conversation about life. These friendships transcended the bounds of Lillis. Some of my cohort friends from out of state stayed with me in Portland, others celebrated my birthday with me, and a couple even moved in down the hall from me this year. They are the people who were not only group project partners, but also the ones I FaceTimed everyday of quarantine and go to for advice.

Leadership and Professional Development

Embedded in the Business Honors Program are the initiatives to build leadership and professionalism. Like many other programs, Honors offers site visits and networking events, however the most impactful aspect for me was being surrounded by peers who were driven, successful, and growth oriented. This built-in peer network supported me when I needed a second opinion on my resume, prepped me for nerve wracking interviews, and shed light on the ‘real world’ through their experiences. When I started exploring the accounting field, an older business honors member openly shared her experiences and served as a peer mentor through the entire recruiting and internship process.

Needless to say, Honors profoundly impacted my personal and professional growth. What started as ice breakers quickly turned into lifelong relationships with peers and professors. Of the many organizations, clubs, and experiences in college, joining the Business Honors Program was the best decision I made at UO.

We hope you’ll help us continue this unique legacy within the Lundquist College of Business.

Sincerely,

Lauren Brown

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