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Secretary

President

Captain

*Associate of Science, Liberal Arts and
Sciences*

Graduation Date: 14MAY2025

Honors Courses:

English Composition I

Survey of World Literature to 1650

Special Topics in Honors

English Composition II

Survey of British Literature from Romanticism

Introduction to the United Nations

Survey of World Literature from 1650



My name is Braiden Burton. Remember it. Everyone always does.

I registered to enroll at NWACC at the very last minute (I've got a habit of doing that), about two weeks before fall classes began. I always told myself that I would go to school when I was more financially secure. I realized, one evening, while in deep contemplation, that I would

most likely never be financially secure, and being an Uber driver just wasn't cutting it for me. So, I pulled the trigger and showed up at NWACC the next day and approached the first faculty member that I saw and said, "Hello. I would like to college, please." I had a dream of being a writer and needed a day job while I worked on my novels. Aspiring authors typically don't get paid much. I needed a degree and wanted professionals to learn me how to write more gooder.

It was Professor Sabrina Chesne, my English Comp. I instructor who convinced me to join Honors. My original plan was to get my degree and get out, but the opportunity to serve the community called to me. That's what heroes do, you know how it is.

Section One



I was able to demonstrate engagement by participating in a variety of events hosted, co-hosted, or sponsored by Honors. My first act of community engagement was my involvement in the J-Street cleanup during my first semester of attendance at NWACC. I have helped with the cleanup a total of four times since. The cleanup was what convinced me to join Honors, as I'm an advocate for community service, and I believe that change starts with the little things.

I made most of my friends through the Honors program. I spent a lot of time in the Honors Hub, and for a while, it was just me. And then I told a couple of other Honors members that that's where they could find me. And then they started to hang there, as well. And they told a couple of friends. And their friends told a couple of their friends. It didn't take long for The Hub to become "the spot." Even on days that I just was not looking forward to class, exams, and homework, I still always looked forward to seeing my homies there. Look around, should you ever find yourself there, you'll see pictures of me. I'm the handsome/pretty one.

Through Honors, I discovered that I do have it in me to be a cut above the rest. By working hard and taking several leaps of faith to help pull myself out of my comfort zone, I learned much about myself and what it takes to stand out and play the role of a leader. Had I never joined, I most likely would have quietly completed my necessary courses without taking any interest in the campus community or challenging myself to learn as much as I possibly could. I am appreciative that I found such an opportunity to really "spread my wings."

Section 2

The Honors program at NWACC helped me prepare for my transfer to the University of Arkansas in many ways. I attended a tour at UARK with the other Honors members of NWACC and had the opportunity to meet many of their own Honors community. From directors to other students, it gave me a leg up. I will be attending the UARK Honors Program, and I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce my name and show my face.

I met my closest friend in my Survey of World Literature to 1650 course, and this was one of my favorite classes at NWACC. It was taught by Professor Sabrina Chesne, and I particularly enjoyed a portion of the class where we analyzed Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*. The

class followed a theme of “1,001 Heroines” based on the “Hero’s Journey” made popular by Joseph Campbell’s novel *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. It was my Survey of British Literature from Romanticism course taught by Professor James Laughton that made me realize that I had more of a knack and passion for poetry than I had ever really considered. Don’t tell anyone. Poetry’s lame, and I don’t want the cool kids to know that I like it. Professor Megan Looney, who taught my Survey of World Literature from 1650 course, showed great compassion and care for her students and showed true dedication to their education. Her focus on rebellious writers and revolutionary moments in literary history was right up my alley.

Through my enrollment in so many Honors courses that NWACC had to offer, I was given the needed experience and ability to push myself in future courses. I am ready for the future challenges that I will face in my college career and stand ready to lead. I carry the desire to aid others and spark life into any community that I may join. If they need a leader, I’ll be one. If they need a student who displays proficiency, I’ll be one. If they need a reliable study partner, I’ll be one. If they need a friend, I’ll be one. If they need an Honors student... I’ll be one.

Section 3

My greatest experience from Honors is an extended one. I’ve met some of my closest friends in Honors. Most of them graduated before I did, but we are still friends to this day, and we still communicate and get together often. I believe that this is the most powerful aspect of Honors: Community. Challenging yourself in classes is only the beginning. You will meet others of similar mind and spirit. Those who wish to be the best that they can be and rise above. Without these friends, I really do think I would be lacking something in my life. I am strict about my social circle and feel it absolutely necessary to surround myself with those who are a positive influence. Honors provided that for me.

I learned that I am not the only one striving to be my best. There are others, and Honors allowed me to surround myself with them. I got the chance to form a crew, a couple of good friends. And then a squad, several good friends. And then a team, lots of good friends. A group... A program. This program of try-hards, over-achievers, nerds, poets, and eggheads are capable of great things, and I truly am grateful to have been a part of NWACC's Honors Program.



Section 4

My advice to newcomers: Don't trip over your cape. Stay humble. You are better than no one, despite accomplishments or status. Follow the path of the hero. Ready to sacrifice, always

there when the world needs you; but beneath the mask and the costume, you are only human. A very smart, capable human, however. I'll leave you with an acronym that has guided me for a long time now.

L – Loyalty – Bear true faith and allegiance to the ones that you care about.

D – Duty – Fulfill your obligations.

R – Respect – Treat people as they should be treated.

S – Selfless-Service – Put the welfare of those around you before your own.

H – Honor – Live up to your values.

I – Integrity – Do what's right.

P – Personal Courage – Face fear, danger, and adversity.

And always remember:

Stay Frosty

