

-Judah Tate

Class of 2024 through 2025

#### Honors Classes

COMM 1303H-1 (Fall 2024) with Professor James  
ENGL1023H-1 Online (Spring 2025) with Professor Cook  
ARHS100333H-2 Online (Spring 2025) with Professor Hughes  
SOCI2013H-1 (Spring 2025) with Professor Bateman.



## About My Academic Journey and Why I joined Honors

I started NWACC for the spring semester of 2024. I completed the GED that prior September and the program I was in offered automatic enrollment at NWACC. Enrolling at NWACC would be my first time setting foot in a classroom, before then I had been homeschooled from Kindergarten to High school. When the first day of the semester started, I had a lot to learn about being a student. One thing I saw after a few weeks of classes were flyers advertising the Honors Program and Honors Association. Looking at these flyers at the time I never thought I would join, I never considered myself capable of reaching that point. But after performing high above my expectations for all five of my classes that feeling eventually fell away. Because of this, I joined the Honors Program after a suggestion from my humanities Professor, Cindy King. I would finally apply that next semester. Since then, my time in the Honors Program and at NWACC has been an uphill climb. Because of my time in the Honors program, I am positioned to transfer to the Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. In addition, my experience taking Honors classes helped me to be considered as a semi-finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke foundation transfer scholarship. As my time at NWACC draws to a close, I am grateful for the once in a lifetime experience that the Honors program has given me.

## Section One: How the Honors program helped me demonstrate Community, Curiosity, and Diversity



Honors J Street clean up in the fall semester of 2024

Participating in the honors I have been able to explore the three unique aspects of the program, the first being community. Since I joined the program, I have been able to meet a lot of bright people. Interacting with them confirms one of my reasons for joining the program, surrounding myself with individuals who are passionate about academics and are committed to lifelong learning. I am grateful to have met everyone in the program that I have. This community has allowed me to be my goofy but dedicated self. Everyone around me has accepted me during events, meetings, and classes. The second aspect has been fostering curiosity. The Honors classes I have taken have redefined how I think about the world around me. For example, Art Appreciation taught by Professor Erin Hughes has redefined how I think about art. Over the course of this semester what I have considered to be traditional art has broadened.

More importantly for me, the way I now think about artwork has increased what I see in my daily

life. I now find myself wondering about the purpose of a piece or what I can take away from it. Another class that has spurred my curiosity has been Intro to Sociology taught by Professor Jenna Bateman. The course material and what Professor Bateman adds has given me a lot to ponder upon through the sociological lens. I find it interesting to think about sociological concepts and theories and apply it to how I look at my own beliefs and values. The last aspect of Diversity exemplifies why joining the Honors Program is not only to grow as a person, but to expose yourself to other experiences. I've met a wide range of people in the program and in Honors classes. From individuals who had a similar educational experience to me, to people who grew up in a completely different lifestyle. In the end, we all met through the same circumstances, the Honors Program. Getting to meet everyone and knowing their motivations has inspired me to voice what motivates me more prominently.

## Section Two: What the Honors program has taught me

The Honors Program has helped me develop multiple skills that I have and will use going forward. The Honors Program has allowed me to experience not only the in-class experience of college, but also the extracurricular as well. Because I joined and participated in the Honors Program, I've gotten a feel for what being in a structured organization is like. I have been able to participate in meetings, community events, and volunteering opportunities. Outside of honors events, honors classes have been most instrumental in teaching me how to refine particular skills. Two examples would be the public speaking class I took in the fall semester and the Sociology class I am currently enrolled in. For Public speaking I went from someone who was petrified to get up and speak in front of a group or more to joining NWACCS forensics team. I improved not only my oratory skills but also my impromptu speaking and performance abilities. The second class I have taken the most away from is Introduction to Sociology. The class has helped me improve my analytical skills and allowed me to apply these skills in my writing through the two reflections on the chapter content and the final paper. These projects centered around applying the course content to answer broad questions and conduct independent research. Outside of class the program helped me network with fellow students. As a whole, the Honors Program here at NWACC has allowed me to develop upon my skills and prepare me for transferring to the University of Arkansas. I hope this foundation that the honors program has helped me build up will carry me through my bachelor's degree and beyond.

## Section Three: What moment will I look back on most



Me giving my informative speech

I am most proud of my time participating in NWACC's Forensics team. Because of me taking Honors Public speaking I was automatically apart of the Forensics team. I found the experience of public speaking to be rewarding, this all culminated when the team competed at the Tulsa Community College Swing Tournament in the fall of 2024. I enjoyed running around to the next event and practicing in



Me and Isreal Martinez after winning the **Best Community College Award**

between rounds. In the end NWACC's forensics team would win Best Community College award at the event.

#### **Section Four: What I'd tell new members**

The advice I have for new members to the Honors Program is to capitalize on every opportunity presented to you. For me, I had the opportunity to participate at NWACC and in Northwest Arkansas because of the Honors Program. Without it, I would not be where I am today.

#### **My Final Thoughts**

As I close this semester out and my time in the Honors Program, I am glad that I applied and participated in the program as much as I did. If not for the Honors Program, I would not be where I am today both academically and as a person. I look forward to transferring to the University of Arkansas to start a new journey. My hope is that people who didn't have any academic achievements or experiences would join the Honors Program just as I did. For the members who just joined, I not only know that you will advance in your academic efforts, but you will also learn something about who you are as a person.

