



Maily Pham  
Graduation Spring 2025

Courses taken:4

Honors College Chemistry 1 (CHEM1104H)

Honors English Composition 2 (ENGL1023H)

Honors Sociology (SOCI2013H)

#### Section 1

The Honors Program encouraged me to take honors courses, which allowed me to better engage with course content and explore how these courses intersected with my own personal interests. Every honors course gave me the opportunity to do a research project on a topic of my/my team's choosing, and every research project involved interacting with a community to some degree. For example, in my Honors Sociology course, I am doing a research project about views on healthcare on American social media versus Chinese social media. I get the opportunity to

interact with other Americans in my local community and across the country about how they view the healthcare system, and I also get to interact with netizens across the sea about their views about their very different healthcare system. In this project, I get to explore these two different perspectives and apply course content to this topic that I personally find fascinating. The project has also helped me learn the course content easier as I can see how most topics can apply to my research. In my Honors Composition 2 class, I also did a sort of research project; it was an essay that was supposed to mimic one of the nonfiction essays in a collection of essays that we had been working on throughout the semester. This project gave me the opportunity to interview some people that worked in fields I aspired to be in, and I found myself incredibly inspired and amused by their responses. The Honors Program has also offered many opportunities to explore, and although I haven't been able to take advantage of many of them, I've always appreciated that they were there for us. For example, every now and then, free tickets for theatre shows or art exhibits are offered.

#### Section 2

As I prepare to start doing my job full-time, I'm grateful for the curiosity and the intellectual stimulation the Honors Program provided me. Although I won't have the time to start research projects any more, I'll still carry that curiosity and eagerness to learn as I work. I often feel the urge to explore beyond what I've been trained in, and I can thank the Honors Program for that. I wasn't just taught what to read or what to think, but how to do it all and apply it to whatever I want to in the future. The Honors Program also gave me many opportunities in leadership and teamwork. In my Honors College Chemistry 1 class, my class was so small that we all decided to do one research project together. It was a little hard since it was an evening class and most of my classmates, including myself, were pretty tired by then, so I had to set goals for us and initiate most of our planning. For a group project with a group of busy people, our project came together very well and I was extremely happy with our presentation and results.

**Commented [1]:** Section 1: In what ways did the Program help you "demonstrate engagement," "cultivate curiosity," and "explore perspectives" (community, curiosity, and diversity)?  
o Section 2: 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?  
o Section 3: What is one experience you had while a member that you'd like to share?  
o Section 4: Considering all you have written for the above, what advice do you have for new members?  
This answer should be "short and sweet."



(Link to presentation: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10l5\\_LfITs87K7Nxe79lvEW-zBXN35b4/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111697762179862729153&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10l5_LfITs87K7Nxe79lvEW-zBXN35b4/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111697762179862729153&rtpof=true&sd=true)).

### Section 3

I enjoyed my Honors College Chemistry 1 class so much, I'll write about it again. I had taken a few evening classes in high school and always enjoyed how chill they were, including this one. Our class only had a handful of people, which made it feel very easy to ask questions. Our professor, Dr. Chun, was incredibly engaging and encouraging, and even if she wasn't supposed to directly help us much on our research project, she would give us great ideas when we were stuck. Since this class was hybrid, most of the labs were supposed to be done at home, but since we were such a small class, she gave us the opportunity to do the labs during class. This helped me a lot, since I wouldn't have to make such a mess at home and I could work with my classmates in the labs. This was one of my first honors classes, and I was initially quite daunted at the idea of having to do a research project while taking the class, but I'm grateful for Dr. Chun and my more experienced classmates for helping make it much more approachable yet still engaging. Our project was about paint toxicity and public awareness of it, and it consisted of a survey that we shared to arts students at NWACC. I'd never done an interactive research project like this, only literature reviews and writings like that, so it was interesting to engage with the community and use the results to help improve education about paint toxicity.

### Section 4

The Honors Program might sound a little intimidating at first; I was nervous about how high the expectations would be and what would be expected of me. However, the Honors Program is less of an elite club, but more like a community and a space to encourage exploration. There's a lot of opportunities the Honors Program offers, so take advantage of them!