

Allyson Zuleger

Minnesota State University

HONR 375

17 January 2024

Why Honors

I believe that throughout life a person should push themselves to seek uncomfortableness and promote personal growth. Continuing my academic and personal journey in the honors program will introduce me to new experiences and allow me to experience this growth.

In my experience in honors last year, especially in the Honors 101 course, there were many layers of growth. I appreciated the moments in the course where we learned more about ourselves to develop foundational knowledge. I found value in using tools like StrengthsFinder. That opportunity taught me about myself and how I may interact as a teammate or leader that I still refer to. This knowledge will help me in my personal and professional life, especially as I go through situations that require a lot of communication.

While I believe I have a strong intrinsic motivation for growth, being in honors has boosted my drive for new experiences. The core honors principles are in my mind as I seek new opportunities. There are instances where the honors principles that are instilled in me may result in me pushing farther past my comfort zone. I have internalized the honors principles which has allowed me to seek more meaningful experiences. I am also focused on committing more to my experiences, making sure I move into roles at an application level. Honors 101 did a good job of

using experiences and opportunities for growth, not just to 'check a box', which allows for more genuineness.

Staying in honors has its own, more shallow, benefits like its appeal on a resume or aid in a scholarship process. Those are undeniable benefits of remaining in honors, but ultimately the reason I decided to remain in the honors program was because I believe it pushes me to grow and succeed. I think the honors program makes my growth more meaningful by narrowing my focus to its core principles.