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This first quarter in the Honors Program at UW has taught me a lot about myself. Although only 7 weeks have passed, many things have changed. My expectations of myself, the way I perceive myself, and my knowledge of the world are just a few of those things. One thing that hasn’t changed, however, are my goals for the future. I still want to major in mathematics, I still want to go to law school, and I still want to pursue my hobby of making music. I do have some additional goals that I’ve added since the beginning of the quarter. I am looking at the possibility of majoring in applied and computational mathematics, instead of just mathematics. This is why I’ve decided that I want to take at least one computer science class and one statistics class in my fist two years to see how I like them. They could potentially change my intended major from math to applied and computational mathematics. Although my goals have mainly stayed the same, my expectations of myself have not. I took Math 125 this quarter, and it has been harder than any class I have ever taken before. That was to be expected, because it was my first math class I’ve taken at UW. However, I was hoping to still get by with above a 3.5 GPA, but I don’t think that’s a realistic expectation anymore. Of course I strive to get as good of grades as I can, and I do my best, but sometimes I just have to accept that I won’t have near perfect grades anymore.

I also surprised myself during this quarter. I took the honors class American Sabor, which is a discussion based class. I am normally pretty shy, but I really put myself out there and have participated in almost all the discussions. I felt really comfortable participating because our professor was very encouraging and fun. Going into my honors classes, I was worried that I would struggle because the honors program is full of very intelligent people, but I surprised myself by being able to keep up in classes and engage in conversation with other honors students and faculty very easily. I really like how my honors classes are a lot smaller than my other classes, like math, which is lecture style. The smaller, more intimate classes allow for better conversations and I find that it’s easier for me to pay attention because I am a lot more engaged. I didn’t expect my math class to be so boring and difficult, at least in comparison to the other classes I’m taking. For both midterms we have had in that class, I was either at or below average, which has been very discouraging.

In Honors 100, I learned about what to expect in the honors program, what was expected of me in the honors program, and resources that are available to me. Some resources include the honors faculty, the honors website, and many other online sources. One website I found helpful when I was trying to find potential experiential learning opportunities for myself and my partner was the RSO directory. I also learned a lot more about climate change, an issue that I already very much care about. I thought the global challenges panel was really interesting because it gave very different points of view on the issue of climate change. However, I felt that it did not address much what we can do about climate change, which is why I want to research more about what individuals can do to help slow global climate change.

By the end of my first year in the honors program, I hope to have a better, more detailed outline of what classes I’m going to take in the next three years to complete my intended major. I hope to start playing music again like I did in high school. So far I haven’t had much time because I’ve been adjusting to my busy college schedule. I also want to have met with my advisers at least once to make sure I am on track. By the end of my time at UW, I hope to have completed my major and have had at least one job. I haven’t had any job experience yet and I think it would be really valuable. I also want to study abroad my junior year.