

Orientation Video 2018-3

[00:00:00.36] We know that there is more to your experience than classes and requirements, which is why we have developed a thriving Honors community. In your first year, you will reside in either Buckley or Shippee, the Honors living learning community for first-year students. The Honors students who live in the building will be in the classes you'll take and the study groups you'll find spontaneously gathering in the lounges. These peers, as well as staff members, can provide support, advice, and friendship in your transition to college.

[00:00:32.22] I lived on the fourth floor-- go Four North! I just remember, everyone had their door open. And I actually just walked in, sat down on people's carpets, introduced myself, and some of the girls had cookies, so that was cool, and we all just talked and got to know each other. So one of my first memories would have to be just meeting the people, and everyone was so accepting of who I was. And we all learned from each other and grew together and had fun.

[00:00:58.37] UConn's such a big school, so to have a small learning community like Honors is really great, because you get to meet different people. You get to, get to know them better than you would have in like Towers or, say, NextGen.

[00:01:09.30] People come in and they don't know anyone, so they just want to meet new people. And you can easily go down to the dining hall and just sit down with any random person and start talking to them. And you'll be able to make a new friend.

[00:01:23.23] I would say that I thought the atmosphere would be a little competitive. But I was really wrong. What I saw was a lot of motivated people. Everyone was working really hard to be the best person that they could be. And it inspired me to work as hard as I could. And we all really grew together.

[00:01:42.93] Everyone was focused on their studies. And they were very dedicated to their homework and schoolwork and doing well. But they also just wanted to be social and have fun, just like anyone else.

[00:01:54.90] The Honors Program offers eight different student-run organizations that will provide opportunities to explore different fields and assume leadership roles around different issues. Whether business, humanities and arts, STEM, diversity, service, or self-governance, there is an Honors organization for you. Additionally, UConn offers over 600 student organizations.

[00:02:18.56] So the big club I'm involved with is Formula SAE. We design and build a race car every year. Then we take it to competitions in Michigan and Canada. I really like it, because I'm interested in cars, and it gave me a great opportunity to apply the knowledge I learned in the classroom in a hands-on, group-based project.

[00:02:37.48] Going out of high school, I was a little bit worried on how I would continue my service. And luckily, UConn had a lot of different opportunities, and so I'm involved as a team leader for community service days. And so we go on one-time service events on the weekends,

and I get to lead different students every weekend at different organizations off campus in service, and so I've really enjoyed that.

[00:02:59.23] So I'm the bass singer in the co-ed a cappella group A Minor. I've been in that group since my fall of freshman year. And I love them, they're amazingly talented individuals, and they're like my second family. And we do so many cool things on and off campus, especially when we went to the International Championship for Collegiate A Cappella. And we got to sing in Boston at Symphony Hall.

[00:03:28.03] I'm actually Nigerian. So I got involved in the African American Cultural Center. And it was really great. They have so many different types of student organizations. It was great to, one, meet new people, and to meet people that are similar to you that share a part-- like an important part of you, like my heritage is important to me. So it was really great to just meet people that have the same perspective about life like I do.

[00:03:55.35] The organization of particular note right now is PATH, or Peer Allies Through Honors. This organization matches incoming Honors students with upper-class Honors student mentors the summer before school begins, and then provides events for mentors and mentees to attend together. Got a question about what to pack, where to eat, or how to get involved? You can ask your mentor.