

It has been weird to say the least, having two months zip by in a completely new place with completely new people, and with no indication that time is going to slow down. It really makes sense now, the advice that many, many people gave me leading up to these first two months: “Enjoy it while you can, make the most of your time” because its true—as soon as I realized that time was passing, it’s already gone.

As I write this I’m sitting on my couch, on rainy Orcas Island, realizing a few things:

- 1—I must be really having fun because those first two months went by so ridiculously fast it makes me wonder how I could actually be learning anything.
- 2—Rainy Orcas Island will always be my home, no matter where I am in the world.
- 3—I really love college.

In my first Honors 100 assignment, I seem like a kid in a candy shop. Incredibly excited to be there, but completely overwhelmed with everything going on and completely indecisive in what to do next—because everything looked just so damn good and interesting. Now, while I’m definitely just as excited, I like to think that I’ve got a better idea of what I’m doing here and what I need to look for to get me where I want to go.

The goals I hold for myself are definitely still the same; the broad “save the world” desire statement that I used in my first assignment I still hold myself by, but now I have a better idea of what I’m going to do to achieve that desire. I know which majors will springboard me into the sustainable energy/renewable resources field, and have tentatively chosen Chemistry for now. I know which departments and who to talk to for help, I’m no longer terrified of massive classrooms with more people than my whole high school, and I’ve got a good grasp of how much work I’ll need to put in to get to where I want to go.

There are a lot of things that I expected to be different that are the same, and vice versa. Take how I thought it’d be easy to get up for an 8:30 class 3 times a week—quite the opposite, it’s incredibly hard. But on the flip side the food is exactly what I’d expected to be, and luckily my expectations were pretty high.

Honors 100, while it does have its dull moments as a “Welcome to College” required class, has been an incredibly informative way to spend my Tuesday afternoons. I do feel now that I know the ins and outs of the services that are available to me. As far as taking care of myself, I did think I would be fine going into college, but the health services, mental and physical, as well as the many support systems here do give me quite a bit of confidence to keep pushing myself, as I have a good system to fall back upon if need be.

Regarding resources that I would like to further explore, I would like to further test what the Honors Advising has to offer, as they have already proven to provide more than I could ever need or think to ask for the times that I have attended their advising sessions. Another resource I would like to further investigate is the departmental advising for the majors that lead to sustainable resources, to further narrow down the classes and opportunities I should take advantage of to make sure that I come out of my four years prepared for whatever comes next.

I think everything I had hoped to accomplish this quarter I have (or will have by the end) I will have accomplished, the only real regret being not being able to fully participate in any intramural sports teams (when I was signing up for classes during Advising and Orientation in the summer I had no idea that my schedule would be so conflicting). I fully intend to sign up for a soccer tournament or league this next quarter, and the next, and every one in the future that I can.

By the end of my first year in the honors program I hope to have a much better idea of what I want to focus on in my life, and I do believe that I am doing what I can to make that happen. This next quarter will be a big indicator if I want to continue on the chemistry track, and the two classes I have registered for with two different perspectives on Climate Change will also be a great indication.

Wow, who knows what the end of my time at UW will look like, or when that will happen. Funny enough, I have less of an idea what that form will take now than at the beginning of my time here. I had no idea such a plethora of opportunities existed beyond what I initially knew/imagined, and I eagerly anticipate getting everything I can out of my time at UW and during these 4 years of self and world discovery.