

Jonah Osteen Sendagire,
Honors Program,
15/10/2024

Why Honors?

For me, the Honors Program at MSU was a deliberate choice, as an international student I was looking for ways to become actively involved on campus and to find a supportive community that would help me adjust to life in the US. School involvement has been a strong hold in my social journey even as a young shy boy back home in Uganda, I was always in school clubs that would help with my social skills. First forward, navigating a new academic and cultural landscape, I recognized that participating in the Honors Program would provide me with a unique opportunity to integrate into university life more seamlessly and build meaningful connections with other students who share a commitment to personal growth.

One of the main reasons I chose to join the Honors Program is the opportunity to build lasting, impactful relationships within a supportive academic community. The Honors Program has a close-knit environment, where students and faculty work closely together in a collaborative setting. This aspect of the program was particularly appealing to me as it presents a chance to connect deeply with peers and mentors to further me in my personal growth journey. For me, making these connections is crucial not only for creating a sense of belonging but also for establishing a network that can offer support and guidance throughout my academic and professional life.

Beyond academic enrichment, the Honors Program is an ideal setting for cultivating my leadership and communication skills, which are crucial for effective policy advocacy. The

health sector back home is in shambles which in part is my motivation to do Nursing here and contribute my fair share in changing this narrative through training other nurses and advocating for policy changes in the sector. I am eager to participate in leadership roles within the program to sharpen my leadership, such as organizing events or leading research initiatives, to refine my ability to influence and mobilize others. The Honors Program's focus on collaborative learning and engagement will also enhance my communication skills, enabling me to articulate complex ideas clearly and These skills will be invaluable when advocating for healthcare reforms and working with stakeholders in Uganda, from policymakers to community leaders. Like the Blue Angels say, I'm glad to be here.