**Documentation of Gateway to University Honors**

During the fall semester of my freshman year, I participated in the University Honors Program’s introductory class, Gateway to University Honors. This one credit hour class is designed to provide a better understanding for students as to what the University Honors Program entails (between membership requirements and benefits of participation), as well as to help students begin to reflect on the ways that the University Honors Program can aid them in pursuing their passions at the University of Cincinnati. My class was taught by Erin Alanson and met once a week on Monday morning at 9:05. Gateway to University Honors was my first class on Monday and a spectacular way to begin my week.

Gateway to University Honors far exceeded my expectations. During my senior year of high school, I had done extensive research on the University Honors Program while college searching. I had a firm grasp of the various perks that honors could provide as well as a deep understanding of the four thematic areas and membership requirements. Although this class retouched upon those fundamental concepts, what I took away from this experience was the atmosphere of the honors student body as well as the more detailed aspects of the University Honors Program that I had overlooked out of a misplaced belief that they would not apply to me. Gateway to University Honors operated primarily based around group discussion which allowed me to meet and engage with all of my classmates. Personally, my favorite assignment in Gateway to University Honors was the mock self-design project proposal. Prior to this experience, I had no interest in making one of my five honors experiences into a self-design project, but after completing the mock proposal, I saw the benefits and excitement that the open ended structure can create. Overall, I strongly feel that Gateway to University Honors has provided me the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the finer points of the University Honors Program as well as encouraged me to make the most of the opportunities that UHP can provide.