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Mission Statement

I wish to be conscious of who I am as my own person throughout my entire life. I plan on using my experiences to learn and to act with integrity and thoughtfulness on my journey. I intend on pushing myself at all times to reach my career and personal goals while maintaining a high level of standard for myself and actions.

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Honors Program


Developing Leaders, Researchers & Global Citizens

Minnesota State Mankato's Honors Program challenges motivated students to take their college experience further than they thought possible. They will develop the ability to solve problems, the skills to tackle tough jobs and the courage to engage in difficult discussions. They will cultivate the desire to seek new knowledge and to explore new places. They will become widely recognized, renowned, prominent, distinguished leaders, researchers and global citizens who are able to bring about change in the world, no matter what their chosen discipline may be.


Learning Plan 2015-2016

 [learning_plan.docx](#)
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Learning Plan 2016-2017

 [learningplan16-17.docx](#)
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Learning Plan 2017-2018

 [learningplan_17-18.docx](#)
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Critical Incident Journal 2015-2016

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Critical Incident Journal 2016-2017

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I think that leadership is as much of a skill as it is a philosophy. A good leader needs to be able to lead; that is pretty explicit. However, I think it is essential for a leader to have a certain mentality or perhaps a code. They need to be aware of many things, including themselves, and some of these skills and philosophies are things that I believe I have developed throughout my time at Minnesota State University.

My experiences serving on the [Preska Community Council](#) and on the [German Club](#) Council have given me invaluable growth in my leadership competencies. I have been able to find and refine many of my values as a leader throughout these particular experiences, such as: delegation, organization and focus. Further, throughout these experiences, I was able to employ and reflect on my strengths and weaknesses as a leader. When the Preska Community Council decided that our floor should participate in Homecoming events, we, as a council, delegated tasks based on perceived strengths (organization and financial know-how for me) to organize a plan of action. Upon further reflection of my time in German Club as both a member and the Treasurer, I have been able to identify and critique the various leadership styles within it. For example, there was a very big change in the Presidency position over the years. Initially, the club was led by a very serious individual, who happened to be more reserved with his actions, and was slightly distant from the other members of the club. He was, however, very on top of events. His Vice President offset his reserved nature by being upbeat, exciting, and extremely personable. Their two leadership styles seemed to balance each other out. After the original president graduated and his vice president assumed control, German Club seemed to suffer quite a bit, as we had very few members and nearly no participation. I believe that the stem of this issue resulted from the leadership having less motivation and investment than previous cabinets. As time went on, however, the new cabinet did find balance. I believe that we eventually learned to play off of each other and take full advantage of each other's strengths, which has become a major player in my leadership philosophy and application. The experiences that I had creating and holding meetings at [Bank Midwest](#) gave ample opportunities to develop and reflect upon my values as a leader. I developed my plans for the meetings by using previous examples, reflections, and personal goals. I knew that I wanted a clear plan of action that was organized and full of content that could be addressed and completed in a timely manner. By the end of the experience, I was able to reflect on what worked and what did not work in my meetings. Further, I was able to compare my meetings with those that my coworkers held and then critique those meetings and leadership styles.

My roles within the two councils, Bank Midwest, and the [Arrowstotle RSO](#) have been in team settings. Naturally, a team has positions or roles, and I think that it is essential for a leader to recognize that. When my colleague and I planned our RSO, we were very careful with the details and role designation. We took a long time developing the roles and the team dynamic that we hoped how club would employ. It is also important that a well-functioning team plays off of each other's strengths. One of my most prized strengths is that of organization. The skill of organization coupled with the fact that I work at a bank and study Economics greatly impacted my ability to earn the position of Treasurer in both of these two councils. Although my teams did not always function at peak-efficiency, we did work the best when tasks were delegated along the strengths of the people that held the well-fitted position. For example, my team and I utilized my financial skills, another group member's speaking abilities/bubbly personality, and the president's drive to lobby for funds and to plan events for Preska Hall. German Club employed the personable and easy-going qualities of the president to sell more pretzels for the annual fundraiser. All-in-all, I find through my leadership experiences that a team functions the best when a person's strengths fit their role and the leadership can identify when and where to employ those strengths in coordination with the other roles and their strengths.

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Research is a skill for everyday life. Its the process that one must go through in order to ask and answer questions. My time in the MSU Honors Program has developed my research skills to a point that I did not even know existed prior. While it may be challenging at times, I learned that research is not just the book work that I had previously thought it was. Research is a process and its knowing how and where to look for information. Further, its knowing how to synthesis and present that information in a coherent, fair, and ethical way.

My experiences in the [First Year Experience](#) (FYEX) course and with [Bank Midwest](#) have allowed me to extensively develop the Information sections within the Research Competency. The research essay that all the students in the Honors FYEX class wrote gave me an excellent start on these. We reviewed source materials, organized them, used the information in an ethical way and meshed the information with our arguments. In addition, the research that I have done for Bank Midwest on the current competitive market is allowing me to further my development in the information sections of the research competency by going through a step-by-step process. First, I collect data from various sources. Then, I incorporate the data into the analysis spreadsheet that I developed. After I compare the rates and write up an analysis about the changes and possible economic factors, I inform the other employees about the competitive climate in a coherent and understandable way. These projects allow me to play with different research techniques and to see what works and what does not work. I learned that not all research needs to be overly formal, but I learned how different techniques impact the research process.

The two large, formal, and original research projects that I completed throughout my college career gave me excellent opportunities to develop the Original Research and Dissemination of Results sections of the Research Competency. I presented my original research on the monumental architecture in Germany at the [Undergraduate Research Symposium](#) (URS) in 2016. To start this project, my partner, Parker Scott, and I asked: "how is the architecture of the Nazi rally grounds connected to the past and how do Germans view and treat the remains of this area today?" Due to the fact both of us were studying German, we took this project very seriously and attempted to research and learn about German culture. In the end, our research provided interesting insights into both the architecture's purpose and how the German people have chosen to coexist with the memory that lies within these buildings. The [Econometrics Research](#) I completed in spring of 2017 gave me excellent practice with more formal, scientific research. This economics paper gave me an opportunity to explore a totally different facet within the research umbrella. Due to the nature of the Econometrics course, I was required to write an in-depth research journal on my topic; including an abstract and introduction, literature review, data, methodology, empirical model, and results sections. Further, I was required to disseminate the research to the class in a formal presentation with a period of questions and answers.

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Global Citizenship is an increasingly important skill to develop in an increasing global world. The advent of the internet (or new ways to use it such as social networking) and increasing global competition has made interacting with culturally different people next to impossible to avoid. Language and culture are inseparable and learning how to interact with those languages and cultures that are different from one's own is everything that global citizenship represents. I feel that throughout my time as an undergraduate at MSU, I have developed these skills.

The [Augsburg Pow-wow](#) gave me some of the first tastes of what it meant to be a global citizen. I learned that culture goes beyond geographical boundaries and that there are often many cultures in such a geographical area. I asked myself questions relating to the differences between Native American and American pop culture and tried to wipe away any ideas that I had in terms of expectation. I feel that the Augsburg experience began my long journey to understanding. The [language and culture essay](#) I wrote for an honors independent study took this knowledge and understanding further by giving me an opportunity to seek out and interact with those that are culturally different than myself. During these interactions, I was able to ask deep and complex questions about culture and often receive input from an individual with a differing background.

My [exchange semester in Erlangen - Nürnberg, Germany](#) as well as the exchange student events I participated in gave me many opportunities to learn what the word culture really means. I learned a lot about a great many cultures while I was in Germany, but I also learned a great deal about my own. Being immersed in German culture and being exposed to so many culturally different others gave me the opportunity to recognize cultural bias and compare and contrast cultural attitudes on a wide range of topics. By the end of the experience, I was able to note, on more than one occasion, places where my cultural bias evokes stereotypes of personal style and prejudice that may have impeded my understanding or led to various disagreements.

My semester in Germany also provided learning in other contexts as well. Although I had been learning German before I departed the United States, the experience abroad provided the immersion and additional push to really develop communication skills. Living in and [taking German classes at MSU and in Germany](#) gave me many experiences with the variability in culture in both verbal and nonverbal communication. I was able to practice my German skills in both formal and leisure contexts. Further, by living within the country where the language I was studying was spoken as a mother tongue, I was able to learn more about the cultural ties language has – specifically with dialect exposure. Dialect exposure was the culmination of all of my cultural communication experiences because it really gave me the opportunity to see the complexity of relations between groups of people, even if they live in the same country and speak the same language.

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Hobbies

- Sports
 - I have hunted my entire life, and plan to forever!
 - I participated in Knowledge Bowl my senior year of high school.
 - I played baseball in high school.
 - I also played football in high school.
 - I am the president of an Archery Club at MSU.
- Clubs
 - German Club
 - Archery Club
- Watching Netflix, TV, and movies
 - Favorites include:
 - Star Wars
 - Friends
 - How I Met Your Mother
 - Game of Thrones
 - Back to the Future
 - Supernatural
- Spending time with friends and family
- Playing video games
- Writing

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This picture was taken by myself.

Contact Information

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