

## Hi! Welcome to My Portfolio

My name is Shayla Schumacher and I am currently a senior at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am majoring in Political Science and minoring in Nonprofit Leadership. This portfolio shows my progress and transformation throughout my college career as I learn more about what it means to be a leader, researcher, and global citizen.



## Mission Statement

I will work my hardest in all areas of my life to stay true to myself. As an Honors Student at MSU Mankato, I will maximize my time to ensure I get the most out of my experiences.

[ABOUT ME](#)

[HONORS PROGRAM](#)

[CONTACT](#)

More About Me

I grew up in Forest Lake, Minnesota and went to St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School and then to Forest Lake public school for junior high and high school. I am the oldest of four children. I love learning about history and different cultures and have had many wonderful opportunities to get involved with local history through the Blue Earth County Historical Society and to go to places such as Washington D.C., Belize, Greece, and Italy.

With my degree in Political Science and Nonprofit Leadership, I want to enter the nonprofit sector, working with either youth or in community development. I have had many opportunities to learn about nonprofits and to get involved in my local community. I have also met many wonderful people who have inspired me to go into a career of serving others and I look forward to following in their foot steps.



My High School Senior Class trip to Athens, Greece

Resume

**Shayla Schumacher**

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Excellent verbal and written communication | Excellent planning and organization | Team Leadership | Conflict Resolution  
 Detailed-Oriented | Exceptional Research Skills | Proficient with Microsoft Office and all major social media platforms  
 Intermediate level of Spanish speaking, reading, and writing | Experienced in Customer Service

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January 2020 – May 2020 | Mankato, MN

- Develop promotional flyers and brochures regarding programming.
- Document incoming donations.
- Assist in the planning and organizing of annual meeting.

January 2020 – May 2020 | Mankato, MN

- Spearedheaded events to raise awareness and promote initiatives regarding academic life on campus.
- Implemented resource accessibility on the official school student life app.
- Led committee meetings to propose, discuss, and advance student success initiatives.

August 2018 – January 2020 | Mankato, MN

- Observed play activities to identify positive behaviors and areas in need of improvement, implementing behavior redirection where appropriate.
- Set and enforced rules to maintain children's safety and created welcoming, caring environments for all children.

Bachelor of Science in Political Science  
 Nonprofit Leadership Certificate  
 Honors Program  
 GPA: 3.96  
 Expected Graduation December 2020

High School Diploma  
 Graduated June 2017

2020 | President | August 2018 – May 2020  
 | Secretary | September 2018 – April 2020  
 | Senator for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences | April 2019 – April 2020  
 | Member | August 2019 – April 2020  
 October 2019 – present | Member |

[CLICK TO OPEN MY RESUME](#)

Unofficial Transcript

[CLICK TO OPEN MY TRANSCRIPT](#)

[CLICK TO OPEN MY TRANSCRIPT](#)

EDUCATION

VOLUNTEERING

WORK EXPERIENCE

EXTRACURRICULARS

ACHIEVEMENTS

## MSU Honors Program

### Honors Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato is to *create future leaders, researchers and global citizens by providing high ability and motivated students with exceptional learning opportunities, mentoring relationships, and a community of scholars that foster their development as future leaders in a global society.*

WEBSITE

LEADERSHIP

"Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to utilize personal leadership values and guide groups toward a common goal."

RESEARCH

"Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit information literacy skills, synthesize and integrate ideas, produce original research or creative works, and contribute to knowledge."

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

"Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit second language and communication competencies and exhibit cultural competency and awareness."

## My Learning Plans

Each year, students create learning plans outlining what they will do to continue to grow and develop each competency for that academic year.

### First Year Learning Plan

CLICK TO OPEN LEARNING PLAN 1

### Second Year Learning Plan

CLICK TO OPEN LEARNING PLAN 2

### Third Year Learning Plan

CLICK TO OPEN LEARNING PLAN 3

LEADERSHIP

RESEARCH

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

## Leadership

"Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to utilize personal leadership values and guide groups toward a common goal."

Going into college I never considered myself much of a leader. I was not super involved in high school and tended to shy away from leadership roles. When I got to Minnesota State University, Mankato, I figured I would be like my high school self, just kind of coast through classes and then graduate. However, as a member of the Honors Program and the First Year Learning Community, I quickly realized that I would not be able to do the bare minimum. More importantly however, I realized that I wanted to get involved and that I really enjoyed trying new things.

This realization came in the Honors First Year Experience class. In the first unit, we talked about what leadership meant and how it can vary from person to person. Something that really stuck with me was that there is no one type of leadership style and different types can bring different strengths to a situation. I was really able to reflect on this in the [Leadership Reflection](#) that we did.

With this introduction to Honors, I was inspired to get involved on campus and helped create the organization [ForGE \(For Girls' Education\)](#). This experience really took me out of my comfort zone. While I started out as just a member, in my second year I became the president, something I had never done before. This was my first big experience with leadership and responsibility as leader and I learned a lot about myself and what I expect in others. Leading ForGE proved to be pivotal in my college career as it further helped me understand what I want in life and how I can help others.

My sophomore year was a key point in my leadership journey. Besides ForGE, I was also a member of the Emerging Leaders Learning Community and took [Developing Your Mentor Philosophy](#) and [Exploring Personal Leadership](#). These courses were great in that I was able to get more involved in the Mankato Community. With Mentor Philosophy, I was able to mentor a first year Honors Student. This allowed me to really understand what it is like to be a supportive and service leader. Additionally, with Exploring Personal Leadership, I volunteered at ECHO Food Shelf and worked with their manager. I enjoyed the entire experience. With the project, I was able to closely look at the manager's leadership style and determined that she is a really effective leader in our community. She showed determination, consistency, belief, collaboration, and many other traits. These experiences allowed me to define my own leadership philosophy, something that I used in Student Government.

In my third year, I was elected [Senator for Social and Behavioral Sciences](#) and was then asked to be Academic Affairs Coordinator that Spring. This provided further development of my leadership abilities. I was involved in a number of committees and different projects, requiring a lot of organization and collaboration. I was surrounded by other campus leaders who shared similar values as me, they were dedicated, driven, and consistent. Being a member of Student Government further confirmed that I value collaboration in leadership. Student Government achieved a lot of great things and I do not think it would have been possible if we had not worked together.

I believe that these leadership experiences are only the tip of the iceberg in my journey of discovering myself. Going forward, I will draw upon the lessons learned with these experiences as I continue to create my own leadership style. I will put effort into implementing my own leadership philosophy into my work. This includes being true to myself, staying consistent in my beliefs, collaborating with others, and limiting my own emotional interference. I believe that this philosophy will allow me to achieve many of my goals throughout my endeavors.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

FORGE (FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION)

EXPLORING PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPING YOUR MENTOR PHILOSOPHY

LEADERSHIP ESSAY



## Research

"Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit information literacy skills, synthesize and integrate ideas, produce original research or creative works, and contribute to knowledge."

Starting my time as a first year Honors Student, I was most nervous about the research competency. I did not know how I was going to fit it into my major (political science) or what I would do for my original research project. However, I quickly realized with the [first year Honors class](#), that I already had decent research skills from high school and that many aspects of my education rely on some form of research. With this first Honors class, I was able to refresh my understanding of how to effectively and ethically find information to support ideas and arguments in papers and projects.

I also learned early on that research is a very large aspect of my major, political science. All of my classes have been based on writing research papers and it is crucial to be able to find information quickly, ethically, and effectively to both support one's own opinion and to understand the opposing perspectives. I have been fortunate enough to be able to take a variety of research based classes, which allowed me to strengthen my research in a variety of fields. I got the opportunity to further my research skills by taking [Anthropology of Religion](#), which provided a new perspective on research as it is a different field. With this research paper, I was able to use a variety of sources to both support and oppose my argument.

In addition to [Anthropology of Religion](#), I took [Feminist Research and Action](#) which also allowed me to learn about another perspective on research. For class, we created our own project to solve an issue on campus. This provided me with an opportunity to create my first original research project and learn about how research can be used to benefit a community. We created a toolkit to help teach about consent on campus, which added to the knowledge on consent and campus resources. I also had the opportunity to take an honors seminar on [Critical Thinking and Pseudoscience](#). This class was fun because we were able to apply our research skills to pseudoscience topics which allowed us to further understand what goes into good research. Through this class, I learned how to be critical of information, even when it published.

With my research knowledge built up over the first couple of years, a friend and I decided to create an [original research project](#) looking at the effectiveness of both curriculum based and competency based honors programs. This project proved to be a challenge due to COVID-19 as we had to change how we disseminated our results. Instead of attending the normal, in-person URS, it was virtual where we submitted our posters online. While this worked well, we missed our opportunity to interact with audience which can be a key component of research. Even still, I was able to learn a lot about conducting research and was able to incorporate ideas and skills I learned throughout my previous classes and experiences.

As I continue to grow in my research skills, I will be able to apply what I have learned so far to future endeavors. Already, these skills have been useful as I started working as a Legal Assistant, working for an attorney practicing consumer law. Whether I continue doing this or if I change career paths, having this background in research will be very useful.

HONORS RESEARCH PROJECT

CRITICAL THINKING AND PSEUDOSCIENCE

FEMINIST RESEARCH AND ACTION

ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION



RESEARCH ESSAY

## Global Citizenship

"Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit second language and communication competencies and exhibit cultural competency and awareness."

To freshman me, global citizenship was an abstract broad concept, that I did not know how I would fulfill. It seemed difficult to meet all of the levels of this competency without studying abroad as Mankato is such a small city. However, I quickly learned that Minnesota State University, and the Mankato community, is very diverse and that I could learn a lot about other cultures, as well as my own.

The [first-year Honors class](#) helped me gain a baseline of my own identity and culture. I completed an identity chart and learned what made me unique compared to others as well as what some of my biases are. This helped me be reflective about my limitations and allowed me to start learning about other cultures and perspectives. Additionally, I was able to further reflect on my own values when I did [ESL Tutoring](#) with a student from South Korea. I was briefly an English Language as a Second Language minor and helped an international student as part of my class. We talked a lot about surface stuff but also about our own individual beliefs and upbringings and why we value what we value. It was interesting to hear from the perspective of someone from South Korea and helped me better understand my own views.

With studying Spanish as my second language, I was able to get a strong understanding of Latin culture both through learning to speak the language and learning about their customs. In [Intermediate Spanish II](#), we completed a paper comparing an aspect of Spanish culture to American. I was able to tie in my major and look at the differences in democracies in Spain and in the United States. This class also allowed me to further develop my ability to speak and understand Spanish, something that proved to be successful when I was a counselor at Upward Bound.

As an [Upward Bound](#) counselor, I helped to manage a very diverse group of high schoolers. This included Latino and Somali students. While I was also able to put my second language skills to use, I was able to really understand other people's situations and perspectives. I learned a lot about the importance of treating everyone as equals as well as the importance of access to resources for those who need it. Part of being a global citizen includes supporting and providing for those who are in need of assistance. Upward Bound provides a wonderful program to help students get ready for college as well as provide relief from difficult home lives. It creates a community of diverse opinions and perspectives where students can explore their interests. This experience helped to understand other cultures and the importance of treating people with respect.

This understanding aided me in my work with the [Mankato Youth Place \(MY Place\)](#). As a youth development professional, I worked with elementary students from low socioeconomic groups. I learned a lot about student's upbringings and how that affects their behavior. First and foremost, I learned that they were just normal kids who loved to play football and paint and dance. However, I also learned about the differences in raising children from various cultures. My biggest take away is that you cannot control how someone raises their child, but you can control how you treat them. Overall, I have learned that being a global citizen means treating each person as a unique individual. This means being open to hearing their perspectives and values and understanding that just because it may be different from your own view, does not mean that they are wrong. I think I will take what I have learned from this competency and apply it most often in my life. Being able to listen and recognize someone's uniqueness is an extremely important trait to have and will hopefully help me positively contribute to my society.

MANKATO YOUTH PLACE

UPWARD BOUND

ESL TUTORING

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II

GLOBAL CITIZEN ESSAY



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Instagram