

HONORS PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM



KAELYN OLSON: CLASS OF 2025
AA, DTA- PSYCHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Kaelyn Olson is from Tekoa WA. She is studying to get her Associates transfer degree and will be transferring to WSU after this year. There, she is going to double major in psychology and criminology. She wants to get her PhD in Psychology and work as a correctional psychologist.



THE LIFE OF EMILY DICKINSON

In winter of 2024, I worked with Denise Ortiz in her Women's Voices in Literature (ENGL&251) course to look into the life of Emily Dickinson, not just her writings.

- **Research methods**
 - I learned how to really fact check and weed through sources to find the ones that were best for my project.
- **Public speaking**
 - The presentation was 30 minutes total and helped me become more comfortable speaking in front of people.
- **Text analysis**
 - I got practice at analyzing literary texts, specifically poems, and finding multiple meanings to the few words.

CRIMINOLOGICAL ARTICLE REVIEWS

In spring of 2024, I worked with Dr. Wesley Maier in his Criminology (CJ&112) course and had the opportunity to analyze several criminological papers. They were each on different aspects of criminology (i.e. green criminology, social disorganization, and immigration).

- **Critical thinking**
 - This project helped me really think about the different schools of thought put myself in their shoes to better understand their writings to analyze them.
- **Forming educated opinions**
 - I was able to use the information I had read to form my own opinions and thoughts on the matters presented.
- **Broadened perspective**
 - I learned to see things from other's points of view and use that to gain a more in depth understanding of their opinions.



LASTING AFFECTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

In fall of 2024, I did a project with the help of Dr. Staci Simmelink in her Human Sexuality (GWST 180) course. For this project I wrote a seven-page research paper on sexual assault and the lasting effects that it can have on people.

- **Understanding the struggles of survivors**
 - Looking into the lasting effects of SA on people showed me that there is a lot that people struggle and need accommodations for.
- **Advocacy**
 - Being able to advocate for myself as well as others through my writing and by speaking out.
- **Empathy**
 - Learning how to better understand and empathize with people from different backgrounds.

REFLECTION

The Honors Program here at the WWCC has been such a phenomenal experience. I have been able to broaden my horizons and do more work in areas that interest me. I have learned how to become a better speaker, how to analyze and look at things objectively, and how to empathize with others and see their point of view. This experience has helped to shape me as a person and grow academically through working with the faculty and going through with these projects. I am excited to apply these new skills to my future schooling as well as to my career. Without the Honors Program, I would not have found my love for criminology and added that into my career path, trying new things and getting out of my comfort zone has been the best thing this program has offered me.