

Honors Program Symposium

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Class of 2025

Bachelor's in Applied Science in Criminal Justice

Introduction

Jaquelin was born and raised in Walla Walla, WA. She is completing her bachelor's in applied science in criminal justice at Walla Walla Community College. After graduating, she plans to work with juveniles at the Juvenile Detention Center.

The Myth of Quetzalcoatl

In Fall 2022, in my Myth and Folklore (ENGL 210) class, I worked with Professor Jeremiah Burt to create a 5-minute video discussing the background and culture of the myth of Quetzalcoatl.

- **Personal Significance:** Chosen to reconnect with and honor my Mexican heritage.
- **Character Description:** Quetzalcoatl is a moral, peaceful god who avoided violence and sacrifices.
- **Class Themes:** The story aligned with class discussions about heroism, culture, and storytelling.



Analyzing risk factors in serial killers

In the Spring of 2024, in my Criminology class (CJ&112), I worked with Professor Wesley Maier to analyze and summarize an article titled *Neurodevelopmental and Psychosocial Risk Factors in Serial Killers and Mass Murderers*.

- **Focus:** The article investigates biological, psychological, and social risk factors linked to serial and mass killers.
- **Psychosocial Hardships:** Childhood abuse, parental divorce, and neglect were commonly observed in offender histories.
- **Further Research:** Many in this field advocate for more research to be done that is similar to disease studies.



The Ethic violations of Senator Robert Menendez

In Fall 2024, in my Professional Ethics class (PHIL 330) with Professor Mike Rostollan, I read and wrote a paper about Senator Robert Menendez, who had committed fraud and bribery that violated ethic codes.

- **Charges:** Convicted on 16 federal charges, including bribery, fraud, and obstruction of justice.
- **Terminology:** Menendez's actions were those of ethical egoism; he was acting only in self-interest. He also violated the rules of fairness, duty, and honesty.
- **Conclusion:** His actions showed the importance of ethical responsibility and accountability in the government.



Reflection

The Honors Program has had a significant impact on my academic growth as a criminal justice major. Through these projects and assignments, I was able to develop stronger writing skills, and I was able to foster a better relationship with the professors I got the opportunity to work with. These experiences allowed me to explore complex topics and connect at a higher level with my professors, and I gained the confidence to talk about subjects that were new and diverse to me. I will be utilizing these skills in my future in criminal justice, where communication and research projects are essential.