

By: Tucker Leck

Emily Council, an English major with an emphasis in Rhetoric, Language, and Writing, is working tirelessly to achieve her goals. She shares her experiences as a student at the University of Kansas.

Working toward departmental honors is no easy task, but it's a goal Council has the ambition to complete, "For my departmental honors, I'm writing a 25-30 page rhetorical analysis." Honors courses are already difficult, and for completion of this task, a 500 level honors seminar class is required. This requires guidance among adults, as she explains, "I have to have a faculty mentor and a secondary reader, both of whom have agreed to be a part of my project."

Council's encountered many cool experiences, but she highlights an inspiring event she participated in last year through her program, "We had a series of webinars of past KU English undergrads who went on to graduate school." From law school to publishing, and careers anywhere in between, the possibilities with an English degree are endless.

Extracurricular activities are also critical to the work Council's doing, both in school and in society, "I'm involved in a club called Her Campus." A women-based national organization, Council writes articles for Her Campus, which are critical to the organization's work.

From political ideologies to creative nonfiction writing, her favorite class selection is a toss-up, "I've enjoyed most of my classes here at KU." ENGL355, a workshop class focused on creative nonfiction writing, focuses on peer-reviewing others' essays. Her professors have also had an influence on what she has found most appealing. ENGL-388-Cultural Rhetorics is a class Council enjoys, "To be fair, I think I just love the professor who teaches that class, but the content is super interesting and makes me think in the best way possible." Rhetorics is the art of effective or persuasive writing or speaking.

The Promise Scholarship has truly been of impact on Council's academic future. Since she earned her Associate's degree as a result of hard work and determination while still in high school, Council can use the Promise to help cover some of her graduate expenses. She notes that community support is key, "I'm so grateful that I have a community backing me in more ways than I can count."

No doubt, her determination in high school has prompted extraordinary success throughout her college life. Her advice to this year's seniors is, "Don't get caught up in high school drama." Other people's business and doing has no bearing on a person's academic success, "[it] is just going to slow you down."

She is currently in the process of applying to graduate school. Her plan is to continue earning an MA in English and a Masters in Library Information Sciences.