

Oregon Tech Honors Program: Honors Option Courses

Students in the Honors Program are required to complete approximately 21 credits as Honors Designated or Honors Option courses. In this way, a student has the opportunity to choose a course for further study, and for a deeper dive into the course and the knowledge of that course.

There are expectations and requirements for both the student and the professor. Please see below.

Expectations and Requirements for Honors Option Courses

Honors Program best practices dictate:

- The instructor of record will ideally hold a professorial appointment; however, an instructor approved by the Director and HPC (Honors Program Commission) may also teach an Honors Option course.
- The faculty teaching the Honors Option course and the Honors Program student will work together to identify the *honors components* for the course. Ideally, the Honors Options (the modified or additional components) will allow student and faculty to delve more deeply into methodology, structure, and/or theory, or primary source materials; reflect on the broader human dimensions of a course's content; address more sophisticated, problematic, or original research questions; and satisfy more rigorous standards than is generally expected by students taking the regularly offered course.
- The Honors Options should work with the existing course's content and learning objectives.
- Submission by the Honors Program student of Honors Option form. The form must be approved by the course instructor and the Director of the Honors Program. Note this is a time-sensitive matter. Please see the form.
- Regular progress meetings throughout the term between the course instructor and the Honors Program student to review and revise as needed the Honors Option components. Due to the nature of Honors Option components, it may be necessary to alter the original design of a particular course element. To facilitate the Honors Option work of the course, faculty and Honors Program student should set up meaningful deadlines to facilitate the Honors Option components. The student's grade for an Honors Option course should reflect **all** the student's work in the course, including work done in common with other students, as well as work completed in fulfillment of Honors Option work.
- It is advisable for the Honors Program student to also meet at least once during the term for a progress meeting (re: the Honors Option Course) with the Director of the Honors Program. HP students should take it upon themselves to set up these meetings.

** Note: Honors Option work should be completed as an alternative to some or all of the regular course assignments, at the discretion of the faculty, and/or in addition to the prescribed work of a course. Simply increasing the volume of work required or the hours spent on it does not constitute an Honors Option element for a course. Thus, quantity does not account for Honors Option work as much as quality of work accomplished in fulfillment of the course. The time required for Honors Option assignments should remain commensurate with a comparable honors course having the same number of credits.*

Important points about Honors Option courses:

- When an Honors Designated course is available in the academic year (for example, “Honors Argumentative Writing” WRI 122-01A, which is offered each Winter Term), students are asked to sign up for the Honors Designated course as opposed to requesting an Honors Option course.
- An Honors Option by a faculty member represents a significant commitment to an Honors Program student’s education beyond the typical time commitment for a course. Faculty are under no obligation to agree to an Honors Option. Honors Program students are asked to approach such agreements professionally and with respect for the faculty member’s time and knowledge.
- Honors Program students are responsible for inquiring about an Honors Option for a course, as well as for initiating negotiations for the content of the Honors Option elements of the course. The student should consult with the faculty member early in the term (there is paperwork/contract work to address *before the end of week two in the term* the course is to be taken), or during the prior term during the advising period, and bring along information describing the Honors Option, in case the faculty member has not participated in teaching an Honors Option course.
- The Director, outside faculty and instructors, and Honors Program Faculty Core Faculty are welcome to request clarifications, modifications, or alternatives to a student's proposal and, if necessary, request a revised proposal in order to assist Honors Program students in producing suitable Honors Program course work.