

Procedure for an Honors Option- Behrend Honors Program

A regular course can earn honors credit through what is called the **honors option**. In consultation with the course instructor, elements are incorporated into the student's coursework to qualify for honors credit. Those elements will vary based upon the course subject, but may include and are not limited to:

- Literature review
- Lab experiments
- Compilation and analysis of quantitative and qualitative research
- Original creative works

Ideally, the honors option should delve more deeply into methodology, structure, and theory; address more sophisticated questions; and satisfy more rigorous standards than is generally expected by the non-honors syllabus. Upon fulfilling those agreed upon elements and completing the course, the student will earn honors credit. The honors option should be an enhancement of the course requirements that is mutually rewarding for students and faculty.

The honors option modifications should fit within the existing course's content. *The honors assignments should be done as an alternative to some or all of the regular course assignments (e.g., replace a set of 4 quizzes worth 5 points each with a semester long research paper worth 20% of the final course grade). Simply increasing the volume of work required or the hours spent on it does not constitute an honors option. The time required for honors assignments should remain commensurate with a comparable honors course having the same number of credits.*

The honors option should include meetings throughout the semester between the faculty member and the student to discuss and review progress on the agreed upon honors components. Specific deadlines should be identified for staged completion of the honors option. The student's grade for an honors option course should reflect **all** of the student's work in the course, including work done in common with other students. *The student must earn a final course grade of C or better to receive honors credit for the honors option.*

To create an honors option, the student must:

1. Register for the course in the usual way.
2. Receive instructor permission to honors option the course. It is strongly recommended that permission is secured prior to the start of the semester.
3. Meet with the instructor to complete the honors option form.
4. Submit the completed honors option form to the Honors Office (Smith Chapel) by the end of the 3rd week of the semester.

Honors options play an important role in helping students complete their required honors credits. An honors option is a voluntary effort by a faculty member over and above the usual time commitment for a course. Most faculty agree to supervise honors options; however, faculty are under no obligation to agree to an honors option. Furthermore, some faculty (e.g., adjunct faculty) are typically not permitted to supervise honors options.

Note: Schreyer Scholars must complete and submit the honors option form located in the online Schreyer Student Records System (SRS): <https://www.shc.psu.edu/srs/>

Submit to the Honors Office by the end of the 3rd week of the semester.

Instructor:

Signature of Instructor: _____ Date: _____

Questions about the honors option or the Behrend Honors Program? Please contact:

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