

## **HONORS COURSE OPTION PROJECTS FAQ's--Faculty**

### **Who are the Honors students?**

They qualified for the program by having an ACT score of 27 or above and by achieving a GPA of 3.35 if they were admitted after taking college classes. They must maintain a 3.35 GPA and a 66% completion rate of hours attempted and take 2 Honors classes each semester (with the exception of the semester during which they take SSC 115, Leadership and Community Service, and do volunteer work). See the ICC website for more information. We currently have 50 Honors students Honors Students receive a full tuition waiver.

### **Why do some Honors students complete the special projects officially called “Honors Course Option (abbreviated HCO) projects”?**

Essentially, the Honors students sometimes need to complete additional coursework in a non-Honors course for Honors credit. Not all can enroll in the Honors classes each semester. A sophomore may have already taken general education classes, or curricular requirements of the student's major may conflict with the scheduled Honors classes. The HCO projects provide some necessary flexibility.

### **What does the student get out of the HCO?**

A class in which the student completes the HCO is counted as an Honors class for the program and is also identified on the student's transcript. More importantly, the HCO provides opportunities to enrich study, explore career interests, learn outside the classroom, share knowledge with other students, and get to know a teacher.

### **What does the teacher get out of the HCO?**

Teachers have the satisfaction of working with students one-on-one and guiding them in meeting challenges that are beyond the scope of regular coursework. These projects often suggest ideas that you can apply to classroom instruction, and students often share their projects in classroom presentations.

## **Are HCO projects restricted to general education classes?**

No--We encourage projects in any course, just as we welcome Honors students in any degree program.

## **What makes a good project?**

There are 2 basic requirements: the project should be qualitatively different (as opposed to just quantitatively different) from the work that non-Honors students in the class undertake, and there must be some form of written documentation for the project (for example, a summary of the procedures used for an architectural design project or the configuration and testing of a computer network).

You and the student can be creative. Secondary research that results in a paper is fine, but consider possibilities like an oral presentation, a website, or a video. Primary research may include job shadowing, interviewing, or experimenting.

## **Who starts the process of working on a project?**

The Honors student approaches you. Your participation is strictly voluntary, and there is no compensation. The HCO is not independent study for which an instructor is paid. We hope that the student has an idea for the nature and subject of a project, but he/she may also need your help in deciding where to start.

## **Once I have agreed to work with a student on an HCO, what happens next?**

The Honors student is responsible to complete an HCO proposal form by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the semester. You must sign this form, indicating that you agree with the student's formulation of the project's description, goals, timetable, and evaluation criteria. The student will welcome your input on these matters. The student must obtain the Honors Program coordinator's approval of the project proposal. If the proposal doesn't meet requirements, the student will come back to you with an amended proposal for another signature. Both you and the student will receive a copy of the approved proposal form from the coordinator.

**After the proposal has been approved, what am I responsible to do during the semester?**

You should monitor the student's work and provide help and feedback, according to the agreement stated on the proposal form. Feel free to contact the coordinator if the student is not adhering to the timetable or if other problems occur.

**When do I evaluate the project?**

You may evaluate it as soon as it is finished, but the deadline is the first day of final examination week. Approximately one month before it is due, the coordinator will e-mail you an evaluation form, which both you and the student must sign. The student does not receive Honors credit for the class unless you turn in the evaluation form. Both you and the student will receive a copy of the approved evaluation form from the coordinator.

**Does every student who proposes a project receive Honors credit?**

Most do, but those who do not complete projects that meet the agreed-upon evaluation criteria do not, jeopardizing their standing in the Honors Program.

**Does my evaluation of the HCO affect the student's course grade?**

The HCO and the course grade should be separate; neither should affect the other.

**How can I get further information?**

Contact the coordinator, Patrick Ward (325E, X5707).