



Developing an Honors Course for Your Department

Honors courses provide a unique opportunity to attract highly motivated students (and professors) into one classroom setting. However, an Honors section is not the right fit for every course. The following guidelines will help you to determine if an Honors section is right for your class.

NOTE: Honors courses must be approved by the Honors College in order for students to receive credit toward Honors requirements.

What the department agrees to do:

- 1) set a prerequisite for the class of a cumulative 3.0 GPA (the learning atmosphere of classes limited to students with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA is a dynamic that is difficult to measure but impossible to deny),
- 2) limit the enrollment of the class to 25 or less (ensures greater interaction between the students and the faculty member),
- 3) convert the class to a regular section if the class fails to meet the first two requirements, and
- 4) provide a tenured or tenure-track professor who will provide an enhanced learning experience to the students.

What the Honors College will do:

- 1) pay the department a stipend that will defray some of the costs in offering an Honors section,
- 2) market the class to Honors students during advanced registration advisement,
- 3) recruit highly-motivated students from other sections with the department's approval, and
- 4) monitor student eligibility and notify students of ineligibility when necessary.

Questions you should ask before making the final decision:

- 1) How will this class differ from a regular section (i.e. why would the students choose this section over another?). Hallmarks of an Honors course, in addition to those listed above, often include vibrant discussion, guest speakers, critical reading and writing – *the goal of an Honors education is greater breadth and more enrichment.*
- 2) Will this be the only section of the class offered? If yes, how will the department handle course need for those students that are ineligible due to GPA or should the class reach the enrollment limit?

For questions concerning Honors course requirements or the approval process, please contact:
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