

The Honors Program: Information for Faculty

Mission Statement

The aim of The Honors Program at BHSU is to provide a rigorous and individualized program of study to students with exemplary academic records. This program includes General Education courses, Junior-year Colloquia and a Junior-Senior Honors Project. General Education courses are either designated for Honors students or taken for Honors credit by special agreement with the professor. The program also provides for a student organization that plans social activities and community service. Travel for research and cultural enrichment are also part of the mission of the program.

The curriculum

Honors students follow the regular requirements for General Education and for their chosen majors but with some additional stipulations and requirements.

- ❖ Writing--Designated honors sections of the two required writing courses: English 101 and 201.
- ❖ Language--at least two courses in any language or languages other than English. *For the sake of attaining a basic level of proficiency suitable for travel and academic reading, students are encouraged (though not required) to complete intermediate-level courses in at least one language.*
- ❖ General Education--Two additional courses in the general education program for Honors credit. This can be done by taking a designated honors course, where available, or by special contract with the professor.
- ❖ Honors Colloquia--Two Honors Colloquia. These are team-taught, interdisciplinary courses that emphasize discussion and research.
- ❖ Honors Project—a thesis or other major project to be undertaken during the Junior and Senior years under the guidance of a faculty director and second reader. During this time, the student takes six hours research credit (HON 498).

How can faculty members be involved?

Contracts

Consider working with an honors student under a special contract in a general education course. Instructor and student work together to decide on alternative or additional assignments that would make the course more rigorous and suited to

the student's own interests. Students who complete a contract receive honors credit the course. Consider not only longer papers with more sources but also other kinds of assignments.

Here are a few examples:

- Additional readings (perhaps with annotated bibliography)
 - novels to supplement a history course
 - historical texts in conjunction with a literature class
 - blogs on a related topics
 - representations of a complex, scientific issues in popular media

Reviews of books or films related to the topic

Travel to a series of cultural events or field research (with appropriate review and documentation)

Colloquia

Pick a topic you have always wanted to teach yourself. Find one or more faculty members who want to teach it with you, and write a proposal for a colloquium. Colloquia are chosen, two per year, by the Honors Advisory Council with the advice of honors student body. Proposals are due in November. Guidelines and examples are online.

Other Honors Courses

Some sections of regular, general education courses are designated for honors students. When such courses are viable, the Honors director will work with department chairs to select instructors. If you would like to teach one of those sections, make your wishes known to your chair.

Honors Projects

Direct a thesis or other project in your field of study or serve as a second reader. An honors thesis done in the traditional way is a pared down version of what we remember of a master's thesis. However, students are encouraged to consider other sorts of projects. Some examples are a business plan, a creative work of art or portfolio, a program for student teaching abroad, or a major project for community service. All Honors Projects have a written and an oral component. The Honors Director works closely with each student and faculty director during the project.

Honors Advisory Council

This is a group of faculty members representing all academic fields in the three colleges. If you are interested in replacing the council member in your field at the end of his or her term of service, please make your wishes known to that council member or to the director.