



Honors Program Information

What is an Honors “split section”?

We have very few “pure” or stand-alone Honors courses. Therefore, we mainly rely on “split sections.” If an instructor agrees to teach a requested split Honors section, the department chair will request a split section be created by Curriculum and the Honors Program will register the student(s) into the honors section of the course.

Ex.: ENG 1301 P01 (19 students) / ENG 1301 H01 (1 Honors student)

The Honors student will be expected to complete the “regular” coursework along with the five required Honors components in order to receive Honors credit.

What are the five required components for Honors courses?

- Interview—Students must interview an individual from the field of study.
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving activities— these activities make the students look at a problem or situation and develop a creative solution.
- Research Techniques—Students can do either a traditional research paper or possibly a research project. The research paper does not have to be longer, but should have more depth than an informative paper.
- Technology Usage—Students develop a presentation that can be through PowerPoint or Smart Board, etc.
- Outside Reading—the instructor assigns a book, essay, or article that is a ‘must read’ for that specific subject matter, and then the students write an essay based on the instructor’s instructions and requirements. Reading assignment should be higher-level reading.
- Service Learning Project (Optional)—Student will develop a service-learning project that is directly related to course content. This project is subject to instructor approval.

These FIVE components must be detailed in the Honors course syllabus. The Honors Program stresses a Writing Across the Curriculum/Discipline Approach.

Some instructors already require some of the components stated above. The main difference is that these components will give more depth to an Honors student’s learning experience.

Are there any additional expectations from Honors Faculty?

Instructors who teach an Honors section are required to:

- a. Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to comply with program requirements
- b. Sign and have the student sign an Honors course contract
- c. Submit a copy of the Honors syllabus which includes a description of how all five Honors components will be met
- d. Ensure student completes the five Honors components

What do instructors get for teaching an Honors course?

Instructors who teach an Honors course will:

- Receive College Service Hours certified by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Be featured in the Faculty Spotlight with “Honors Faculty” Distinction
- Be invited to the Academic Excellence Programs Graduation Banquet
- Receive an Honors Faculty Cord after teaching a minimum of 3 Honors Sections
- Receive an Honors Faculty Medallion after teaching a minimum of 6 Honors Sections
- Have the opportunity to teach highly motivated and academically prepared students

Who can I contact to receive more information regarding the Honors Program?

Lacy Culpepper, Student Success Specialist-Academic Excellence Programs, 956-872-6453, lculpepp@southtexascollege.edu