

Call for Honors-Designated Courses in the Major

Honors-Designated Major Course Criteria

In Spring 2011 the Faculty approved the designation of Honors-designated courses in the Major. Students who enter the Honors Program as first-year students are required to take four seminars. They have the option to take four interdisciplinary Honors Program seminars **or** two interdisciplinary Honors Program seminars plus two Honors-designated courses in the Major.

Departments have two avenues for proposing Honors-designated courses in the Major.

- Departments may submit to the Honors Advisory Council a modified syllabus coupled with a relevant project for an existing course to request an Honors designation.
- Departments may propose a special topics course for Honors designation.

Honors courses are intellectually ambitious. An Honors-designated major course explores the interdisciplinary potential of its subject, while also contextualizing such work within the discipline from which the content arises. The Honors Advisory Council will use the following criteria to determine whether a proposed course will receive an Honors designation. The following criteria are broad enough to encompass a number of disciplines.

- The course is not taught in lecture format.
- The course pedagogy promotes active learning (e.g., discussion, problem-solving).
- The course has enhanced theoretical components.

The type of course with an Honors designation will vary from department to department. Some possibilities include: contract courses, designated sections, writing-intensive courses. A course submitted for Honors designation should address interdisciplinary connections, theoretical enhancements, and active learning pedagogy. The proposal submitted for Honors course designation should indicate **why** the course should receive such a designation. It is insufficient to submit an existing course and indicate it has been taught the way an Honors course would be taught. The proposal should include a syllabus and a sample assignment or project.

HONORS-DESIGNATED MAJOR COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

DEPARTMENT CHAIR: _____
Signature Date

INSTRUCTOR:

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER:

DEPARTMENT:

SCHOOL OR DIVISION:

CATALOG DESCRIPTION (include existing catalog description):

HONORS DESIGNATED DESCRIPTION (E.G., PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES, ENHANCED THEORETICAL COMPONENTS):

-Attach a brief narrative to (not to exceed one page) describe how the course fits the criteria for an Honors-Designated Major Course (i.e., is not taught in lecture format, incorporates pedagogy that promotes active learning [e.g., discussion, problem-solving]), and has enhanced theoretical components).

-Attach a syllabus.

-Attach a sample assignment or project.

-Provide your chairperson with the above documents so she or he can submit the proposal to the Honors Advisory Council.

Submit to Pat Sullivan, The Honors Program, CHH-111