



Guidelines for Honors colloquia

Course proposal information

Faculty members who wish to teach an Honors colloquium should consult the Honors director first, then fill out and submit the Honors colloquium proposal form. The Honors committee reviews and makes decisions concerning course proposals.

Role of the Teacher

Teachers of Honors colloquia are acknowledged to be well prepared in the subject matter of the course; they "know their stuff." The real challenge in an Honors colloquium is to fan students' passion for learning. In some cases this may require upsetting students' preconceptions of their own abilities in order to help them to a more seasoned awareness of what it is to practice lifelong learning. Teachers' creative capacity may be tested. It is important to provide imaginative ways for Honors students to respond to the subject matter. There are likely as many ways to achieve this as there are different teachers. Nonetheless, there are a few proven predictors of success. Group discussion should be included. Expect students to come prepared to share ideas gained through reading and other assignments. Also, hold them to a high standard. It is essential that the quality of Honors education not be compromised by teaching at the level of those who are only casually prepared.

Work Load

The minimum standard for student performance should be higher in an Honors colloquium. Students can be assigned a greater volume and diversity of material, and the teacher can reasonably require higher quality in students' work. There is particular need for opportunities that allow students to develop writing and quantitative skills. Honors students should write frequently, and their writing should be subjected to rigorous evaluation, preferably of more than single drafts. Likewise, Honors students should have multiple opportunities to apply quantitative skills with appreciable rigor.



Honors colloquium proposal form

Colloquium information Please attach a narrative course description to this form.

In the narrative for Honors colloquium description, you are invited to discuss the following aspects of the course:

- Which topics will make up the content of the colloquium—in which order will you cover your topics?
- Which types of activities (in and out of the classroom) will you use for the colloquium?
- Can you provide a week-by-week description of colloquium activities?

1. Title of the proposed colloquium (Honors colloquia are listed by WebAdvisor as IDS-398):

2. Academic semester for which the colloquium is proposed: Fall Spring Year 20 _____

3. Proposed schedule (days and time): _____

4. Special resources (list any resources which may require special arrangements, e.g. equipment, a field trip, a speaker, materials, or a special classroom)

5. Phone _____ E-mail _____

Signature(s) of faculty member(s) _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Signature(s) of department head(s) _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Signature(s) of dean(s) _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Decision of the Honors committee

Accepted Accepted with revisions Accepted but delayed Declined

Signature of Honors director _____ Date _____