

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TEACHING IN HONORS

The Honors Program offers qualified students across the university an alternative to the traditional Liberal Studies Program. This program provides small, seminar-style courses, interdisciplinary study, and membership in the Honors community of scholars. Students in this program come from all eight colleges and schools offering undergraduate degrees. Faculty members from all participating colleges are encouraged to apply to teach Honors courses in their areas of specialization.

WHAT KINDS OF COURSES ARE OFFERED BY THE HONORS PROGRAM?

The Honors Program offers three types of courses that you may apply to teach:

1. Honors Core Courses

- HON 100 Rhetoric and Critical Inquiry
- HON 101 World Literature
- HON 102 History in Global Contexts
- HON 104 Religious Worldviews and Ethical Perspectives
- HON 105 Philosophical Inquiry
- HON 180 Data Analysis and Statistics
- HON 201 States, Markets, and Societies

These courses require expertise in the field and a record of strong teaching. They do not require a specific course proposal. Before you apply to teach in the program, you should consult with your department chair and make sure your home unit can accommodate this adjustment in your teaching load. You may also wish to talk with the Honors Program director about your interest in teaching an Honors Core Course. Sample syllabi are available at your request.

2. Honors Topics Courses

- HON 205 Interdisciplinary Arts
- HON 207 Topics in Cognitive Studies [Course is being phased out and proposals are no longer accepted]
- HON 208 Topics in Sociocultural Inquiry [Course is being phased out and proposals are no longer accepted]
- HON 225 Honors Lab Science Topics
- HON 301 Junior Seminar in Multiculturalism
- HON 302 Junior Seminar in Social Justice
- HON 350 Senior Capstone Seminar

- HON 351 Senior Capstone Seminar in Service Learning

These courses require expertise in the field and a record of strong teaching. They also require you to prepare a specific course proposal and draft syllabus. Please note that all 300-level seminars (HON 301, 350 and 351) are required to include a research paper assignment.

3. Honors Explore and Discover Chicago Courses

- HON 110 Discover Chicago Quarter
- HON 111 Explore Chicago Quarter

These courses parallel the Discover and Explore Chicago courses that are offered in the regular Liberal Studies Program curriculum. However, the honors versions have their own learning outcomes and writing expectations. Faculty members apply to teach these courses through the Liberal Studies Program link: <https://lascollege.depaul.edu/LSPCourseProposal/Login.aspx>

If you wish to teach an Honors Discover or Explore Chicago course, please be sure to check the box indicating that preference when you complete this form.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you are currently teaching at DePaul University and you would like to teach an Honors Program course, please complete a proposal using this link: <https://lascollege.depaul.edu/HonorsCourseProposal>

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

The application deadline is January 15, 2021.

HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE ABOUT TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS?

For Honors core courses and previously approved Honors topics courses, staffing decisions are made by the Honors Program director in consultation with your departmental scheduler. Assignments are based on instructor availability and expertise and on the scheduling needs of the program. Teaching assignments may be rotated periodically to create opportunities for new faculty members to participate in the program.

For new Honors topics courses, decisions to accept or defer a proposal are made by the University Honors Program Committee (UHPC). The UHPC is composed of fifteen faculty members who have been

named by Faculty Council to represent all eight colleges served by the program. The UHPC also includes three voting Honors student representatives and four non-voting Honors Program administrative staff.

WHICH STUDENTS TAKE HONORS CLASSES?

Honors courses are open only to students who are enrolled in the University Honors Program. These students seek an additional challenge in their general education program and applied for admission to the honors community. Approximately 900 students are currently members of the Honors Program.

HOW ARE HONORS COURSES DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR LIBERAL STUDIES COURSES?

Honors courses are discussion-oriented seminars that are designed for high achieving students. All Honors Program courses are inter-disciplinary and most are taught by full-time faculty. Except for the Honors Explore Chicago courses and some Honors Lab Science Topics courses, all Honors Program courses are limited to twenty students. Honors courses are typically writing intensive, and they encourage participation in both collaborative projects and individual-level inquiry.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC WRITING REQUIREMENTS AND LEARNING EXPECTATIONS IN HONORS COURSES?

Honors Program courses, like courses in the regular Liberal Studies Program, are required to meet designated writing expectations and learning outcomes. Those writing and learning goals are not identical to those in the regular program, and faculty teaching in Honors should be attentive to the specific requirements established by the program.

Writing Expectations:

With the exception of HON 180, all 100-level HON courses require students to complete at least ten pages of formal writing, and one assignment should be a sustained essay of about seven pages.

With the exception of HON 225, all 200-level HON courses require students to complete at least twelve pages of formal writing, and one assignment should be a sustained essay of at least eight pages.

With the exception of HON 300, all 300-level HON courses require students to complete a research paper. This research paper should be sustained essay of at least eight pages involving independent research and formal documentation.

Expected Learning Outcomes: The Honors Program has identified a set of learning outcomes for each of the Honors courses. These learning outcomes have been reviewed and formally approved by the University Honors Program Committee and by Faculty Council. Course descriptions and the learning outcomes associated with each course are provided [here](#).

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR HONORS FACULTY?

Faculty members who teach in the Honors Program become part of a community of teachers who share an interest in the continued growth and improvement of the program. You will be invited and encouraged to attend a yearly meeting to discuss teaching and assessment issues pertinent to Honors. We look forward to your comments and suggestions at these meetings. You will also be invited to participate in such Honors Program events as lectures, readings, and the quarterly student-faculty dinner.

If you are invited to teach in the Honors Program, you will be asked to encourage students to submit outstanding papers and projects from your class for inclusion in the Honors Student Conference, an annual celebration of Honors student work which takes place each May.

In addition, you may be asked by Honors Program seniors in your field to direct their Senior Honors Thesis (HON 395) or to serve as a thesis reader. No faculty member is required to participate in a thesis project, but many have found it to be one of the most engaging and rewarding aspects of teaching in the program.

DOES THE HONORS PROGRAM INCLUDE HYBRID AND ONLINE COURSES?

The Honors Program includes a small number of hybrid options in which some in-class sessions are replaced with online activities. The program does not currently offer online courses. However, the University Honors Program Committee will be discussing the future of online modalities in the Honors Program in 2021. If you are interested in teaching an online course with a synchronous component, please contact the Honors Program director.

Please note that Honors faculty teaching hybrid courses are required to complete DOTS training.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

Yes, one more thing: To ensure your availability to offer your proposed course, please confer with your department chair or program director before submitting an application.

WHERE DO I GO FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about course content or the review process, please contact the Honors Program director, Jennifer Conary, at jennifer.conary@depaul.edu. Feel free to request syllabi from previous courses or discuss your ideas for a possible course.