

Honors Options – FAQ's

Honors Options allow Honors students to earn Honors credit in 300- and 400-level non-Honors courses at Drexel. A student works with their professor to design additional research, writing, or creative project worthy of Honors credit. Honors Options enrich and expand the student's depth of knowledge while encouraging collaboration and exploration beyond the standard coursework.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions, but please also feel free to contact the Honors Program with any additional questions or concerns.

Q: What is the overall Honors Option process?

A: Please see the timeline below:

- First 2 weeks of the term
 - Student meets with their professor to develop their Honors Option project and prepare their proposal.
 - Student fills out and submits their proposal details via [the Honors Option Proposal form](#).
 - The Honors Program reviews submitted proposals.
 - If approved, the student's professor will be notified to review and approve.
 - If rejected, the student will receive feedback with the possibility to revise and resubmit.
- **Honors Options must be approved by 4:00pm EST on the Friday of Week 3!**
- Weeks 4-10 of the term
 - Student completes their Honors Option project and submits to their professor.
 - Once completed, the student returns to [the Honors Options system](#) and notes that they have completed their project by **4:00pm EST on the Friday of Week 11**.
 - The professor receives an email to their Drexel account, returns to the Honors Option system, and confirms the project is complete.
 - **Faculty must approve Honors Option completion by the time grades are submitted (12:00pm EST on the Wednesday after Final Exam week).**

Q: What kinds of projects are typical of an Honors Option?

A: An Honors Option project should be tailored to the learning outcomes of a course. Typically, additional research, a written essay, a creative project, or any type of assignment that continues to build learning from the course objectives can fit the parameters of an Honors-worthy project. The Honors Option project should require an extra 10-15% more than the course's standard workload.

Q: How do students submit an Honors Option Proposal?

A: The entire Honors Option Proposal must be completed online. Within the application students will fill-in information about the course, contact information for approving faculty, and detailed information about the Honors Option project. Students will need to provide their instructor's Drexel email address.

Q: Can students work together on an Honors Option project?

Yes, however each student must propose the collaborative project within the Honors Option system. Students must clearly show who is responsible for which aspects of the project and each proposed project must add 10-15% additional work for each student. In the past, students were able to collaborate in order to create bigger projects that resulted in poster presentations at conferences and drafts of articles.

Q: Why would an Honors Option proposal be rejected?

A: Typically, Honors Option proposals are rejected because the project is not outlined in enough detail, it does not fit within the stated course outcomes, or the rigor is not Honors-worthy. Students must clearly state the project's parameters; what it is, how long it will be, how it builds on the learning outcomes, etc. To learn more about what makes a project Honors-worthy, please refer to the Honors-Worthy Checklist.

Q: A student's proposal was rejected by the Honors Program, now what?

A: The Honors Program will provide feedback for the student explaining why the proposal was rejected. Some students may be encouraged to revise and submit a new proposal. The Honors Program is available to meet with students in-person to review a revision; however it is the student's responsibility to set up an appointment well before the deadline. All revised proposals must be approved by the Honors Program and instructor before the deadline, which is 4:00pm EST on the Friday of Week 3.

Q: A student's proposal was rejected by faculty, now what?

A: This does not happen frequently. Typically, a rejection at this level is due to some miscommunication. Students should collaborate with their instructors to revise the project; both parties must agree on the scope and parameters. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this revision process and submit a new proposal within the Honors Option system. All revised proposals must be approved by the Honors Program and instructor before the deadline, which is 4:00pm EST on the Friday of Week 3.

Q: A student's Honors Option proposal has been approved by the Honors Program, but the faculty member is having trouble approving. What steps can be taken by faculty to approve the Honors Option proposal?

A: Here are three troubleshooting methods:

1. Students can use the reminder feature in the app by clicking on the bell, which triggers another proposal review email to their instructor's Drexel email address.
2. If faculty are having trouble approving an Honors Option proposal, please use this [Faculty Guide for Honors Option Proposal Review and Confirmation](#) (this link can also be found on the Honors Option webpage).

3. If faculty are still unable to review the Honors Option proposal, contact SharePointSupport@drexel.edu. This is the email address for the Drexel University IT contact who maintains the Honors Option system.

Q: Are faculty *required* to approve an Honors Option proposal?

A: Faculty-members reserve the right to decline a student's request for an Honors Option project for any course, for any reason including: late requests from students, lack of available time to assist the student or assess extra material, etc.

Q: Who is responsible the Honors Option project and process?

The student is responsible for approaching faculty to discuss the parameters of an Honors Option project. In this conversation, the parameters of the project, content, and timeline should all be reviewed. Please see the Honors-Worthy Checklist for more information about what would make a project Honors-worthy.

The student is also responsible completing the Honors Option project, submitting on time, and ensuring faculty have approved their proposal as well as confirmed their completed project in the Honors Option system.

Q: How do students receive Honors credit for an Honors Option project?

A: After proposal approval by both the Honors Program and the faculty member, the student must complete the Honors Option project by the deadline (before 4:00pm EST Friday of Week 11). Faculty will assess the project and confirm it is complete in the Honors Option system. Faculty must approve Honors Option completion by the time grades are submitted (12:00pm EST on the Wednesday after Final Exam week). Students must earn a B or higher in the course overall in order to receive Honors credit. Honors credit should be reflected on student transcripts by Week 5 of the following term.

Q: Should the Honors Option affect the student's final course grade?

A: The Honors Option is an extra project and should not have any effect on the student's overall grade for the course. The student should be graded on course assignments and requirements alone. An Honors Option project does not receive its own grade. When reviewing an Honors Option project, faculty assess whether or not the submitted project meets what was outlined in the proposal.

Q: Are exceptions or extensions ever granted to students?

A: The Honors Program does not grant any extensions or exceptions for a student's Honors Option project unless requested directly by faculty. Additionally, students who complete an Honors Option

project for a course but did not receive approval for their project will not be granted an exception to receive Honors credit.

Questions or Concerns? Please email us at: HonorsProgram@drexel.edu.