

Honors Credit by Petition

A Brief Guide for Instructors

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM • NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

“Honors Credit by Petition” is an Honors credit mechanism used at colleges and universities around the country to enhance learning experiences for high-achieving students enrolled in an Honors program and to facilitate student achievement of Honors graduation criteria. Honors credit is typically but not always requested in upper level courses where enrollment cannot justify a separate Honors course in a curriculum.

Definitions.

- The *Honors Petition and Proposal* Form represents the initial request by the student and its subsequent approvals, as well as a brief summary of the proposed Honors Credit Project.
- The *Honors Credit Project* represents what the Honors student accomplishes in a specific course in a specific semester.

Criteria. An Honors Credit Project

- Should be a substantive addendum to the objectives and scope of the course, and, when or if possible, aligned with the student’s career goals.
- Should be unobtrusive and not overly difficult or time-consuming, such that the Honors student retains all opportunities for success afforded to all students in the class.
- should at least in part result in a printable report (manuscript, presentation, poster slide) that the student can add both to his (her) portfolio and one file in the Honors Office.
- Must be completed by the individual student. (Group projects are not permitted.)
- Must be completed in the semester in which the student is enrolled in the course.

Examples of Projects. (All must result in printable report.)

- Literature reviews on special course topics
- Summary or analysis of section(s) in course textbook otherwise not covered in course material
- Additional readings in humanities classes
- Additional or specialized speech in SPCH classes
- Additional or specialized exam in MATH classes
- Additional or specialized experiment in science classes
- Data analysis for or other assistance with instructor’s scholarly projects (if associated with course objectives or student’s career goals)

Student Obligations when Petitioning for Honors Credit.

- Presenting instructor with Honors Petition and Proposal Form at semester’s beginning.
- Active collaboration with instructor on developing Honors Credit Project
- Composing a 150-200 summary of the proposed project that demonstrates student understanding and that can be assessed as Honors-quality by the instructor and the Director.
- Obtaining signature approvals for the project from the instructor, instructor’s department head, instructor’s dean, and the Honors Director using the Honors Petition Form.
- Submitting the completed Honors Petition and Proposal form before the semester deadline (end of first week of a minisession, end of second week of a full summer session, or end of third week of full semester).
- Seeking assistance from instructor during semester as necessary.
- Submitting project to instructor on or before semester deadline (usually one week before the final day of classes).

Instructor Obligations when Mentoring an Honors Credit Project

- Mentoring and encouraging progress on project throughout semester.
- Informing student at semester’s end whether the project was completed to satisfaction or not.
- Reporting grade on Honors Credit Project to the Honors Director when requested either by print or by email.

Petitioning a Course for Honors Credit

Sample Projects

The following list provides examples of the type of projects that have been accepted by the faculty in the past for Honors Credit by Petition. Faculty and students are encouraged to be imaginative and develop unique projects.

*Write 350-word reviews of 3-5 recommended readings for the course. The faculty member may ask you to find the 3-5 sources that should be reviewed.

*Develop a 10-15 slide PowerPoint or other visual aid for class or public presentation related to a topic of relevance to the course. The presentation could be presented to students in lower grades or in other courses.

*Expand the topic for the term paper for the course. Increase the word requirement for the term paper. Example: expand a 1500-word paper to 2500 words. The proposal for the project should note why this greater analysis is worthwhile.

Write 350-word book reviews for 2-3 books recommended for the course. See examples of book reviews in The New York Times and in your field. A good book review can offer a unique perspective on the material.

*Develop an annotated bibliography for a topic related to the course. An annotated bibliography includes a short paragraph that outlines the contents of the book and its value as a resource.

* Assist a faculty member with research. Example: analyze water samples and keep a log of the activity. Conduct research and analyze the data to the best of your ability given the information you have collected.

*Develop a poster for a research project conducted for the course for the Undergraduate Student Poster competition held each spring semester at Nicholls. Refer to the Office of Research and Sponsored Program web site for instructions on the poster competition.

Sample Projects for Service Learning:

*Perform a service learning activity related to the course. Examples: volunteer to develop and administer surveys for business, psychology or sociology courses. Note that the survey may have to be approved by the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board before it can be administered to the public.

Sample Interdisciplinary Projects:

*Develop an inter-disciplinary project for the course. Example: write a report on novels about science. Analyze films that refer to historical topics or science.

*Write epigrams, poems, or essays about your college experience or a topic that is being covered in the course. Take photographs or produce art for a special project.

Sample Models and Displays:

*Develop directions for an Honors Biology project or an Honors project in any field. Write directions for creating a model of part of the solar system.

*Plan a library exhibit or display on a person in the field under study or on a topic under study. Ellender Memorial Library has display cases and they are always looking for thoughtful exhibits.

*Create a model or a diagram and description of a physical or chemical process.

Sample of Original Research Application:

*Research recipes for some type of cuisine and create an original recipe informed by the research. Write about the research and explain your choices.