

Honors Program at HCC

Additional Information for Faculty

Program Advisory Group

The Honors Advisory Group will consist of volunteer faculty members from every division that grants degrees. Although any interested faculty member may serve in the group, faculty who volunteer should expect to serve in the group for a period of at least one year, meet roughly once a month, and communicate with other faculty members in their division regarding all aspects of the Honors Program.

Honors Program Curriculum

Through collaboration with the Program Advisory Group, faculty in each division will design and implement two types of Honors program curriculum: Honors sections of gen ed courses and upper level blended courses for students with Honors contracts. All such components must be shared and endorsed by the curriculum committee and the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Honors Courses

To graduate having completed a track of a given major, students must complete 9 credits of Honors course work, by earning credits through special designated sections of general education courses offered only to students in the Honors Program.

Within each division, faculty will:

- Identify which general education courses will be offered with the Honors designation, bearing in mind that certain courses may lend themselves better to an Honors designation than others.
- Design course work that maintains the course outcomes already determined for that general education course while also enriching that curriculum by offering enhanced critical thinking opportunities.
- Identify faculty to teach these courses.

Honors Contracts

Students must declare a major before entering the Honors Program, and in order to graduate with the Honors designation, students must complete 6 credits in discipline-specific courses in their major. These courses, which will likely have lower enrollments than the general education courses, will be offered as Honors

Contracts, allowing Honors students to enroll in course sections with non-Honors students. Honors students will be required to enter into Honors contracts with the instructors. Once signed, the contract may not be canceled or altered, and students will have to adhere to the contractual agreement in its entirety with no option to switch from an Honors curriculum to non-Honors curriculum past the add/drop deadline. The contract needs to be signed by the student, faculty member, and division chair or director.

Within each division, faculty will:

- Identify courses that will be available for Honors Contracts. These courses will be upper level discipline-specific courses and faculty members teaching these courses must be willing to enter into Honors Contracts with students designated as Honors students and enrolled in that course.
- Use the Honors contract template, to be designed by the faculty through the Honors Advisory Group and approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, to complete a contract for courses identified as being eligible for Honors Contracts.
- Design curriculum that maintains the course outcomes already determined for that course while also broadening and enriching the curriculum by offering enhanced critical thinking opportunities.
- Identify faculty to teach these courses.