

Honors Course Addendum

Definition:

An honors course is an academic course (usually in the core areas of English, math, science, or social studies) which is more demanding than a college prep course. Advanced course work and a greater time commitment are required of the student and course materials must be differentiated and more rigorous than those used in a college prep course. Honors courses are designed to place emphasis on critical and analytical thinking, rational decision-making, and inductive and deductive reasoning and are, therefore, intended for students with superior abilities in the course content area.

Criteria:

Above all the curriculum chosen must be of superior difficulty (e.g., the 101 Series for Biology with an extra experiment is not acceptable. Completing Apologia Biology and doing extra dissections with write-ups is acceptable)

- Additional reading and/or research on a particular concept or aspect of the course should be included
- Additional writing – should include critical analysis of some kind
- Project(s) – see guidelines below and/or research paper(s)
- Presentation – of either a project or research paper

Guidelines:

- All textbooks/coursework must be completed in their entirety in the academic year in which the course begins (you may not take 1.5 years to complete the course and call it Honors)
- An Honors Addendum listing the additional honors work that was completed by the student must be attached to the High School Course worksheet when grades are submitted in January and June.
- Per State Department of Education policy, Honors credit cannot be earned for Special Topics courses, electives and foreign language courses unless the student is earning a 3rd or 4th unit of credit in that content area.
- Completing a course in a younger grade does NOT constitute Honors credit. (Taking Algebra 1 in 7th or 8th grade does not automatically make it Honors).
- **Writing:**
 - Writing requirements can vary depending upon the course and emphasis of the course, but it MUST be MORE than is required than in a college prep course.
 - Writing assignments should demonstrate critical and analytical thinking skills
 - Writing assignments may not be used in two different courses to count for Honors (For example, a research paper written for college prep History course cannot also count as the research paper or project for Honors level English)
- **Projects:** The Honors project(s) chosen and completed by the student should 1) have a direct correlation the subject matter of the course, 2) include analysis of some aspect of the course, and 3) demonstrate a deeper understanding of some concept(s) specifically related to the course. The recommended time to be spent on Honors projects is determined by the number of projects a student plans to complete in the course. Projects may be approached in one of the following ways.
 - 1) 4 smaller projects: Complete 1 per quarter (7-9 weeks average per each) and approximately 4-6 hours per project (including presentation time for one of the projects.)
 - 2) 2 larger projects: Complete 1 per semester (10-15 weeks average); approx. 8-12 hours per project (including presentation time for one of the projects.)
 - 3) 1 long involved project: Complete a year long project (18-30 weeks average; approx. 15-25 hours on the chosen project including presentation time

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Student: _____

Grade: _____ Member ID# _____

Course Title and Curriculum: _____

In order to earn Honors Credit in this course, the student will complete the additional work as listed below (*all categories are required*):

Additional Reading:

Additional Writing:

Project(s):

Presentation(s):

Comments (optional):
