

EXED Honors Option Criteria

What is the Honors Option?

The Honors Option provides Honors Scholars Track I and II students the freedom to design a portion of their curriculum. Students may use Honors Option to earn honors credit for a non-honors upper level **(200 or above)** JMU course not regularly offered as an honors course. There is no limit to the number of Honors Options that honors students may attempt, but no more than two Honors Options should be attempted in any given semester. The option can be applied to courses with any number of credit hours.

How is the Honors Option Initiated?

Within the first two weeks of class the student must meet with the faculty member in whose class the Honors Option is planned and agree on a set of requirements they think would qualify the course for honors credit. Both the student and the faculty member must sign the completed Honors Option form and the student should promptly submit it to the Honors Program Office for approval by the director of the Honors Program (form located at www.jmu.edu/honorsprog/courses.shtml#option). If the Honors Option is approved, the work may be undertaken for honors credit. (Due to the volume of Honors Options submitted each semester, you will only be notified if it is NOT approved.) At the end of the semester, the faculty member reports to the Honors Office the successful completion of the Honors Option and the Office of the Registrar is directed to award the student honors credit for the course.

What is the purpose of an EXED Honors Option?

The purpose of the Honors Option is not more of the same work but something different. Greater difficulty or a heavier course load is not the goal of the option. In order to meet the requirement of greater rigor or more advanced study the option should include any number of the goals stated below.

- Study topics in greater depth.
- Make connections between topics within the student's major and course content.
- Use a thematic approach to achieve an advanced study of the course content.
- Include creative applications of course content.

What are Examples of Honors Option Assignments?

- Participate in related faculty research projects.
- Develop original research projects.
- Lead class discussions on readings.
- Conduct presentations on course related topics.
- Monitor or analyze related current events.
- Complete a survey of the literature.
- Provide supplemental readings, projects, or reports.
- Allow opportunities for extended inquiry or independent research.
- Attend extra-curricular events.
- Complete site-visits or field work.
- Include service or volunteer related activity.
- Include self-instruction.
- Conduct classroom performances or presentations.