

Honors Upgrade Faculty Information Sheet

Congratulations! You have been identified as a faculty member with whom a University Honors Program student would like to pursue a course of study for honors credit.

The Honors Program at Philadelphia University requires students to complete 7 courses at the honors level. The courses offered for Honors credit are offered through the College Studies curriculum. Students can also earn honors credit for completing a project or honors course during a semester abroad, co-op, community service, independent study or research. With all of these options, there are still semesters when students find it difficult to work an honors offering into their demanding course schedules. Here is where the Upgrade is introduced.

The Honors Upgrade allows a student to upgrade to the honors level, their individual participation in an existing course in their major, with the permission and cooperation of the faculty member teaching the course.

What is the process?

1. The student obtains the Upgrade application from the Honors Program office or website: www.philau.edu/honors.
2. The student meets with the faculty member whose course he/she intends to pursue upgraded participation. The student must be enrolled for a **grade!**
3. The faculty member *and* student agree upon what the Honors participation will entail.
4. The student returns, by the deadline, the signed, completed *Upgrade Intent* form to the Honors program office.
5. The student returns, by the deadline, the completed and signed *Upgrade Proposal* form detailing the honors participation agreement.
6. The student completes the honors work as agreed with professor.
7. The faculty member returns the signed *Upgrade Completion* form to the Honors Program office by the close of the semester.

Ideas for upgrades....

Use our students' minds as an intellectual laboratory site within the context of the course!

.... something you really wanted to cover in your course, but you just could not make it work

.... extend in depth, breadth, or complexity, something the remaining class members are already required to do in the course

.... Students often will review the course syllabus and come up with something related that does not appear to be addressed in the content of the syllabus

.... Observation or application of ideas, concepts taught in the course

Examples of Recent Upgraded Projects

Science & Health Six 1-2 page papers on illnesses discussed and diagnosed from a bio-psychological perspective

Engineer &Tex Make collection boards - 6 traditional/ 6 modern designs

Architecture Paper/ Discussion on architecture and class structure of Philadelphia area mansions.

Design & Media Use computer program to create a series based on the concept of Heaven and Hell.

Business Research paper on impact of economic downturn on retail stores.

Liberal Arts Integrate interviews with authors of two sources used for research paper

Academic Quality

Students who earn a grade less than C+ in the course will not receive honors credit. This is the responsibility of the student.

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