



NEW Guidelines for H-Option Projects

(Approved by the Honors Council on 6 May 2015)

Implementation Beginning Fall 2015

The H-Option Guidelines (Sections 4 to 8 below) will go into effect for all Honors students in Fall 2015. The distribution requirement for students in the University Honors Program (see Section 2 below) will go into effect for students entering the UHP as first-year or continuing students in Fall 2015 and beyond. It is strongly encouraged for second-year students in the UHP in Fall 2015 for whom the distribution requirement will not pose a hardship. While Honors students who are in their third year and beyond in the UHP in Fall 2015 are encouraged to undertake Honors credits in 300 or 400 level courses (as detailed in bullet 1 of Section 2 below), they are exempt from this distribution requirement.

1) Minimum Cumulative GPA to be in Good Standing in the University Honors Program

- 3.4

2) Distribution Requirement for Students in the University Honors Program

- At least six (6) of the twenty-one (21) credits must be earned in 300- or 400-level courses through successful completion of an H-Option Project and/or a 300- or 400-level Honors course/section.
- Honors 498 courses (1 credit, graded S/NC) do not count toward the 300- or 400-level courses in bullet one above.
- Exceptions to the distribution requirement may be granted by the Honors Director to transfer students.
- This distribution requirement will apply to students who enter the University Honors Program as first-year or continuing students in Fall 2015 and beyond and is strongly encouraged for second-year students in the UHP in Fall 2015 for whom the distribution requirement will not pose a hardship. While Honors students who are in their third year and beyond in the UHP in Fall 2015 are encouraged to undertake Honors credits in 300 or 400 level courses (as detailed in bullet 1 above), they are exempt from this distribution requirement.

3) Minimum Honors Credits Earned at UW-W and Distribution Requirement for Transfer Students

- At least nine (9) of the twenty-one (21) credits must be earned at UW-W.
- A minimum of three (3) of the nine (9) earned at UW-W must be earned in 300- or 400-level courses through successful completion of an H-Option project and/or a 300- or 400 level Honors course/section.
- Honors 498 courses (1 credit, graded S/NC) do not count toward the 300- or 400-level courses in the bullet above.

4) Grade Requirement for the H-Option

- The H-Option Project (along with the self-reflection piece described in the next section) will be graded by the instructor as Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory.
- At least a B (not a B-) must be earned by Honors students in all coursework undertaken for Honors credit (including H-Option Projects or Honors courses/sections) in order to receive Honors credit.
- An exception to the above are Honors 498 courses, which are all 1-credit and graded S/NC.

Four more boxes to go...You can do it!

5) Applicable to All Levels

- Except for Honors students who will be juniors or seniors in Fall 2015 or for special cases, students should not engage in more than two (2) H-Option Projects per semester.
- Recommend at least three meetings between the student and the instructor throughout the course: one at the outset, one at mid-semester, and one at the end.
- Discipline-appropriate (paper, lab experiments, live performance, visual art work, etc.).
- The demands of the H-Option Project should be commensurate with the number of credits earned in the course.
- The scope of the work (time commitment and product length) will be determined at the discretion of the instructor and student.
- The student will include a self-reflection piece that is submitted to the instructor and to the UHP office explaining the process of how the H-Option Project was completed. The purpose of this self-reflection is to encourage students to become aware of themselves as learners. The self-reflection piece (along with the H-Option Project) will be graded by the instructor as Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory. Components to include: 1. How would you describe your project (100 words or fewer)? 2. What steps did you take to complete the project? 3. What did you learn from this experience? 4. If you could re-do the project, what would you do differently? 5. If applicable, how does the project connect to your major and/or your career path?
 - 500-word minimum self-reflection for 100 and 200-level courses.
 - 750-word minimum self-reflection for 300 and 400-level courses.
 - For a visual arts project, a video production, or a live performance, the self-reflection may be presented orally or audio/video-recorded. Its length should be comparable to a written self-reflection.
- All H-Option Projects must be approved by both the instructor and the Honors Program Director.

6) 100-level and 200-level courses

- On the H-Option Form 1, a student must explain how the project will meet **at least one** of the following objectives, and on the H-Option Form 2, a student must explain how the project has met **at least one** of the following objectives:
 - approaching the material from an innovative or unconventional thematic perspective (*innovative* and *unconventional* are defined here within the context of the course, that is, an approach that is different from the thematic perspective offered in the course).
 - promoting learning outside the formal classroom setting (e.g., service projects, interviews, cultural events, field work, volunteer work, etc.), and thereby fostering civic knowledge and engagement.
 - emphasizing written, oral, visual, or tactile communication skills as well as (if relevant to the discipline) digital technology literacy and/or data analysis/mathematical literacy.
 - encouraging creative expression and achievement.
 - applying theories and principles learned in class to "real-life" problems and situations.
 - fostering teamwork and collaboration toward problem-solving
 - developing intercultural knowledge and competence.
 - demonstrating ethical reasoning and action.
 - exploring connections among various fields of study.
 - providing opportunities for independent research, including the use of primary and secondary sources.

7) 300-level courses

- On the H-Option Form 1, a student must explain how the project will meet **all of the following three objectives** in Category 1 below, and on H-Option Form 2, a student must explain how the project has met **all of the following three objectives** in Category 1 below:

Category 1

- approaching the material from an innovative or unconventional thematic perspective (*innovative* and *unconventional* are defined here within the context of the course, that is, an approach that is different from the thematic perspective offered in the course).
 - emphasizing written, oral, visual, or tactile communication skills as well as (if relevant to the discipline) digital technology literacy and/or data analysis/mathematical literacy.
 - requiring the use of original or primary sources (as defined by the discipline) beyond what are required in the course in addition to traditional textbooks and secondary readings (as defined by the discipline) beyond what are required in the course.
- In addition, on the H-Option Form 1, a student must explain how the project will meet **at least one** of the following objectives in Category 2 below, and on H-Option Form 2, a student must explain how the project has met **at least one** of the following objectives in Category 2 below.

Category 2

- emphasizing discussion and other interactive teaching/learning techniques that are generally unsuitable for larger undergraduate classes.
- promoting learning outside the formal classroom setting and away from campus (e.g., service projects, interviews, cultural events, field work, volunteer work, etc.), and thereby fostering civic knowledge and engagement.
- encouraging creative expression and achievement.
- applying theories and principles learned in class to "real-life" problems and situations.
- fostering teamwork and collaboration toward problem-solving.
- developing intercultural knowledge and competence.
- demonstrating ethical reasoning and action.
- exploring connections among various fields of study.
- providing opportunities for publication and/or public presentation of work.
- creating assignments and exercises that require students to reconcile conflicting findings or to synthesize different points of view.

8) 400-level courses

- All of the objectives for 300-level courses apply with the following addition under Category 1:
 - emphasizing ***the independent gathering of*** and use of original or primary sources (as defined by the discipline) in addition to traditional textbooks and secondary readings (as defined by the discipline) beyond what are required in the course.

Congratulations! You have finished reading the NEW Guidelines for H-Option projects.

