

University Honors Program

The University Honors Program, in cooperation with the Office of the Provost & Chief Academic Officer, seeks proposals for team-taught Honors Think Tanks that meet USU's General Education Depth requirements and allow students to explore one topic through two disciplinary lenses. Each 25-student Think Tank is team-taught by two outstanding professors with fundamentally different areas of expertise, and Honors invites proposals from faculty teams who envision teaching together across two of the following three different course numbers/depth areas: HONR 3010 (DSC: Life/Physical Sciences), HONR 3020 (DHA: Humanities/Arts), and HONR 3030 (DSS: Social Sciences). Each student registers and earns USU credit for one depth area, but all students progress on all learning outcomes in both disciplinary areas. Faculty are responsible for the section aligned with their expertise, but they share much of the grading and team-teach every class, exploring the topic from their disciplinary perspective and modeling cross-disciplinary discussion. Honors Think Tanks capture students' imaginations, encourage them to take intellectual risks in a safe environment, and engage them as USU "Citizen Scholars" in their local and/or global communities (CEL course designations encouraged). Each section also typically meets either CI or QI requirements. Selected courses will launch in Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 and run again in AY 2024-25.

Proposals are due Tuesday, January 3, 2023, and must include the following materials, arranged in this order:

- A signed and complete [cover sheet](#), with Department Head signatures indicating permission to teach for Honors
- Two one-page pedagogical resumes (one for each faculty member) with clear evidence of outstanding teaching
- A five-page course overview with the following information:
 - A one-page course description stating the central idea of the proposed course and indicating how the course will engage 25 intermediate-level Honors students from various majors in cross-disciplinary experiential learning, controlled and guided risk-taking, and the development of skill in civil discourse
 - A one-page description of the role of each faculty member and the vision for collaboration in the classroom
 - A one-page articulation of how shared and separate course assignments and activities create opportunities for students to gain a deep understanding of one area and interdisciplinary collaboration across two areas
 - A list of USU's General Education Depth learning outcomes in the two proposed disciplines (see [Designation Rubrics for USU GE Courses](#) and select appropriate area) with a brief, specific statement about how the course will address each learning outcome
 - A list of the USU Honors Program's learning outcomes (critical thinking, independent research, interdisciplinary learning, and community engagement) with a brief, specific statement about how the course will meet each learning outcome
- A five-page (maximum) draft syllabus outlining 15 weeks (no dates necessary at this stage) of proposed texts, assignments, and activities. *Courses should not replicate existing depth courses but should offer Honors students a collaborative, experiential classroom experience.*

Proposal review will be complete by mid-February and will consist of the following:

- Review by Honors Faculty Advisory Board and Student Advisory Board (representation from each college on both boards), in consultation with the University Honors Program Executive Director
- Discussion, as necessary, with relevant department heads and deans

Faculty whose proposals are selected agree to complete the following course-development and delivery process:

- In consultation with the University Honors Program Executive Director, revise the syllabus, complete rubrics detailing fully how the course meets both General Education and Honors learning outcomes, and submit final versions of all materials by **April 10, 2023**
- Revise as required to secure final Honors/General Education approval by **May 1, 2023**
- Earn a \$500 course-development stipend per instructor upon final course approval
- Work with Honors to schedule the course, once in AY 2023-24 and again in AY 2024-25; each time the course is taught, Honors will pay \$5000 to each faculty member's department (\$10,000 total per course taught), to be used as course buyout or faculty compensation at each Department Head's discretion
- Accept the title "Distinguished Professor (Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Professional Practice Professor, etc.) of Honors Education" while teaching the course
- Team-teach a discussion-oriented course of 25 Honors students, with the assistance of an Honors Undergraduate Teaching Fellow specially selected for the course, once a year for two years

For submission questions, please contact Dr. Kristine Miller, University Honors Program Executive Director.

Please submit applications to the University Honors Program at honors@usu.edu by January 3, 2023.