



UNIVERSITY of  
SAINT FRANCIS™

*The John Duns Scotus Honors Program*

**FAQ**

*What is an Enriched Course in the Honors Program?*

- (1) Students in the John Duns Scotus Honors program complete three enriched courses, each of which adds one credit to the regular course credit assigned to a particular course from the USF catalog. The total credit for this enriched course depends on the amount of credits contained in the original catalog course: an honors student enrolled in a course regularly carrying three credits earns four credits. If the regular course carries 4 credits, then the enriched version carries five.
- (2) The one extra credit associated with the enrichment typically counts toward elective, major or general education humanities credit according to the demands of the major program curriculum, and the advice of the student's major advisor and the Honors Director.
- (3) Ordinarily, Honors students should enroll in only one enriched course per semester, and do so only after they have completed successfully HONR 200, the Foundations Seminar.
- (4) When the Honors Program reaches its capacity of 100 students, each Academic Department will designate on the course schedule which of its courses are eligible for enriched credit. Until such time, however, Honors students, in conversation with their major advisors and the Honors Director must select a course for enrichment and have it approved by the Instructor through the mediation of the Honors Director.

*What do I do in an Enriched Course?*

You attend the course and fulfill its requirements as usual, just like any other student enrolled in the course. The enrichment for the one additional credit involves a learning contract between you and the course's instructor in which you agree to engage in a research project or some other comparable assignment that is above and beyond the ordinary course requirements.

***What do is meant by “above and beyond the course requirements”?***

The purpose of the enriched courses is to provide opportunities for Honors students to achieve one or more of three pedagogical objectives:

- (1) Integrate learning from two or more disciplines
- (2) Apply one or more Franciscan values or ideas to an academic subject
- (3) Probe more deeply into a particular subject or topic

For example:

- (1) I am a **Biology Major** and am required to enroll in BIOL 295 Genetics in fall 2006.
  - a. I choose this course as my enriched option for fall 2006.
  - b. I discuss it with my Advisor and the Honors Director, each approves the selection.
  - c. The Honors Director contacts the instructor for BIOL 295 to explore the enriched option and discuss compensation.
  - d. The instructor for BIOL 295 agrees to supervise the course enrichment.
  - e. I meet with the BIOL 295 instructor, who drafts a learning contract that lays out clearly the objectives of the enriched work and the ways in which I fulfill these objectives—research, presentations, papers, etc.
  - f. Together with the course instructor I decide to dedicate this enrichment opportunity for BIOL 295 to pedagogical objective number (1), integrate learning from other disciplines, in this case Geography and History. I will link the question of how genes enable us to chart human migrations from Africa across the continents to BIOL 295’s unit on population genetics.
  
- (2) I am a **Social Work Major** and am required to enroll in SOCW 385 Violence in fall 2006.
  - a. I choose this course as my enriched option for fall 2006.
  - b. I discuss it with my Advisor and the Honors Director, each approves the selection.
  - c. The Honors Director contacts the instructor for SOCW 385 to explore the enriched option and discuss compensation.
  - d. The instructor for SOCW 385 agrees to supervise the course enrichment.
  - e. I meet with the SOCW 385 instructor, who drafts a learning contract that lays out clearly the objectives of the enriched work and the ways in which I fulfill these objectives—research, presentations, papers, etc.
  - f. Together with the course instructor I decide to dedicate this enrichment opportunity for SOCW 385 to pedagogical objective number (2), applying one or more Franciscan values or ideas to the question of violence. I will study Christian and Franciscan theories of non-violence and self-sacrifice, and illustrate it with a critical biographical study of the Franciscan St. Maximillian Kolbe set in the context of the Holocaust.

- (3) I am a **Communication Arts and Graphic Design Major** planning to enroll in ART 411 Interactive Multimedia Presentations in fall 2006.
- a. I choose this course as my enriched option for fall 2006.
  - b. I discuss it with my Advisor and the Honors Director, each approves the selection.
  - c. The Honors Director contacts the Instructor for ART 411 to explore the enriched option and discuss compensation.
  - d. The instructor for ART 411 agrees to supervise the course enrichment.
  - e. I meet with the ART 411 Instructor, who drafts a learning contract that lays out clearly the objectives of the enriched work, and the ways in which I fulfill these objectives—research, presentations, papers, etc.
  - f. Together with the course instructor, I decide to dedicate this enrichment opportunity for ART 411 to pedagogical objective number (3), probe more deeply into a particular subject or topic. Accordingly, linked to ART 411's unit on music, I will probe more deeply into the techniques of using music in multimedia presentations, focusing on issues related to recording technology, such as quality in recordings and reproduction, and aesthetic appropriateness and listener satisfaction.

***How do I register officially for my Enriched Courses?***

Let's continue with the three examples from the previous question: I register for BIOL 295 (4 cr.), SOCW 385 (3 cr.), or Art 411 (3 cr.). Simultaneously I register for IDS 490 for one credit. This one credit satisfies either a humanities, elective, or major requirement depending on my particular program and circumstances. My registration form must be signed by my major advisor and the Honors Director. If IDS 490 moves me above 17 hours for the semester, the cost of the 18<sup>th</sup> credit is covered by my Honors scholarship. (Please note that the Honors Scholarship does not depend on whether or not I go over 17 hours, but only on my meeting the terms of my scholarship contract letter.)