

Honors Colloquium Proposal

Basic Criteria and Information:

- The Honors Colloquium is a one-time, three-credit course open only to current Honors students.
- The proposed course cannot replicate an existing or concurrently proposed/taught course at Tennessee Tech; the goal is to create a unique learning experience that would not otherwise be available. It is not an “Honors version” of another course.
- Instructors must have academic qualifications appropriate for a 4000-level course on the proposed topic. Coteaching (especially across disciplines) is welcome.
- Enrollment is limited to about 20 students to ensure that the course is a seminar-style, interactive course, rather than a lecture, and that the students and faculty have meaningful and direct communication.
- The course should be intellectually challenging, but should be designed for Honors students from all disciplines. Honors Colloquia encourage Honors students to experience the complex questions of fields very different from their own, and to do so with neither oversimplification nor with penalty.
- All Honors Colloquia are subject to approval by the Honors Council. The Honors Council reviews proposals during the academic year on a rolling basis. **Proposals for Spring 2026** will be prioritized for the first opportunity for review on **October 6** so we can ensure Colloquia are included on our course list when students are planning their spring schedules. We also welcome proposals for Fall 2026.

A proposal for an Honors Colloquium should include:

1. Proposed course **title**:
2. **Name(s)** and **department(s)** of instructor(s):
3. **Verification that the course is not an “honors version” of an existing course**, one that is planned to run concurrently, or that is under review. (Courses in the disciplines are very welcome to be offered, instead, as Honors sections in the faculty member’s department pending approval by that department.)
4. **Academic qualifications** of the faculty member(s) to teach this course
5. **Description** of the course, including (but not limited to) questions the course will address
6. **Goals**: Why is this topic suitable and compelling for a group of students from diverse majors? Goals should reach for higher-order thinking, rather than being primarily focused on how-to skills or introductory information.
7. **Requirements**, including proposed **assignments**, **grading**, and **expectations**: A full syllabus is not required in the proposal, but reviewers want to understand how students will be evaluated. Emphasis on quizzes and exams is not appropriate for colloquia.
8. **Methods of instruction**: Courses that are primarily lecture are not appropriate for colloquia. What will happen in the classroom?
9. **Preferred semester** for teaching the course, **preferred days and times** available for teaching this course.
10. If the Colloquium is approved by Honors Council, do you plan to submit an application for an EDGE/ASCEND (QEP) Grant?

Send your proposal to LRRoberts@tntech.edu. Complete proposals that meet guidelines will be reviewed by the Honors Council. Thank you for your interest in teaching the Honors Colloquium.