



RIT Croatia Honors Program (Honors Option)

ECTS credits: 0

Purpose: Provide excellent students with opportunities to advance their knowledge in a particular course and earn proper recognition of their extra work.

Aim: Gain a deeper understanding of a certain topic within the course and develop research competences through close collaboration with the instructor, an expert in the field.

Program: Honors option: a part of existing course where the faculty member works with a student on exploring a particular topic within the faculty's area of expertise; this results in a deliverable (e.g., a study, a paper, a project, etc.).

Benefits:

- Challenge for those looking to get more.
- Honors option on the transcript is good for graduate school.
- Education with a purpose – addressing problems of the world or a specific entity, such as a company.
- Forming connections with similar students and faculty and other entities, such as businesses.
- Advanced course registration.

General guidelines:

- Students may apply for honors options for courses at the 200-level or higher, but only first-year students may apply for honors options for 100-level courses.
- Students may undertake an Honors Option only in a course in which they are officially enrolled. Faculty members are required to verify the student's enrollment prior to approving the Honors Option application.
- Students must earn a grade of at least B– in the course in order for the honors option to count toward completion of academic points.
- Students must give a public presentation of their work at the Honors Program Colloquium and/or elsewhere (e.g., presenting at a symposium, club meeting, in class, department meeting, etc.).
- Students cannot do more than two options per semester.
- Five options are needed for program completion.
- Upon completing five options, students cannot take additional options.
- Students must take one option from General Education courses.

- Students must take one option from program courses.
- Students can use their study abroad or Erasmus as an option.
- Students are offered a list of faculty and courses in the honors program to choose the honor options.
- Faculty members are expected to ensure that Honors Option topics are original and do not substantially duplicate topics previously completed by other students.
- Students may propose their own research topic to a faculty mentor for consideration as an Honors Option.
- Students meet with faculty weekly to track progress.
- The honors option is pass or fail.
- Paper, if selected as a deliverable, does not need to be published within the semester but should involve a presentation along with submission.
- Students in good standing may continue in the Honors Program.
- Students who do not choose an honors option during three consecutive semesters will be withdrawn.
- In order to pass the option, students need to achieve the following outcomes:
 - LO1 Evaluate a specific issue or aspect of an issue within a particular field.
 - LO2 Use a range of research methods.
 - LO3 Design or develop a deliverable reflecting thorough engagement with a particular issue.
 - LO4 Develop project management competences.

Table 1. GPA required for continuation in the Program per year-level

Year-Level	Overall GPA Required for Continuation
1	3.2
2	3.3
3	3.4
4	3.5

Application process:

- A call is put out via e-mail to students who have the required GPA.
- Students must meet the following requirements to be considered:
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
 - Two faculty recommendations (students write the names of two faculty members they have asked for a recommendation, and Honors Program Coordinators send the recommendation forms to faculty members to fill in).
 - A minimum of two years of academic coursework remaining at RIT to complete the undergraduate degree, beginning with the upcoming fall semester.

- In their application to Honors Program Coordinators they will need to include the
- following:
 - Students will describe how membership in the Honors Program will contribute to their educational, professional, or research goals.
 - Students will write the names of two faculty members that they asked for a recommendation, and Honors Program Coordinators will send the recommendation forms to faculty members to fill in.
- The decision is made by the Honors Program Coordinators.

Timeline of activities

- **Two weeks before the start of the semester:** The Honors Program Coordinators announce the call for Honors Options to faculty members.
- **By the start of the semester:** Faculty members submit their Honors Option proposals to the Honors Program Coordinators.
- **During the first week of the semester:** The Honors Program Coordinators distribute the Honors Options Catalog to eligible students.
- **By the end of the second week of the semester:** Students identify a faculty mentor, define their Honors Option topic, and submit their Honors Option application.
- **By the end of the third week of the semester:** The Honors Program Coordinators review applications and approve Honors Options. Following approval, students and faculty mentors formally begin work on their Honors Options.
- **During the eighth week of the semester:** Faculty mentors and students participate in a mid-semester progress meeting to review project development, discuss challenges, update on a timeline, and confirm successful preparation toward the planned deliverables.
- **One week before the Honors Program Colloquium:** Faculty mentors review the students' deliverables and provide formal approval for them to submit their work for presentation at the Honors Program Colloquium.
- **One day before the Honors Program Colloquium:** Students upload all required presentation materials and final deliverables to MyCourses.
- **On the last Friday of the semester:** Students present their Honors Option projects at the Honors Program Colloquium.

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Number of students accepted per academic year: 10

Expectations from faculty:

- Work closely with a student or a small group of students on a particular topic within the faculty member's area of expertise as part of a designated course.
- Assist students in selecting appropriate research, design, development, analytical, or creative methods relevant to the discipline.
- Ensure that the project is based on authentic scholarly or professional work. Research projects should rely on genuine empirical data, where applicable, or other appropriate disciplinary evidence, and demonstrate a rigorous review of relevant literature and sources. Fabricated data, fictitious references, or AI-generated content presented as original work are not acceptable.
- Foster critical thinking, independent learning, academic integrity, and professional standards throughout the project.
- Monitor the student's progress against the agreed timeline and provide timely guidance when adjustments are needed.
- Ensure that the Honors Option is fully completed before granting approval for presentation. Drafts, incomplete analyses, or work in progress are not acceptable as final Honors Option deliverables.
- Review the final deliverable and determine whether it meets the expected Honors Program standards before approving it for presentation at the Honors Program Colloquium.
- Ensure that the final deliverable meets high academic and professional standards. While publication is not required, the work should be of a quality suitable for publication or professional dissemination within the discipline.
- Attend the Honors Program Colloquium to support their student.