Honors Option Points, also known as HOPs, are the core focus of the Honors Program and are the necessary components that go into earning an Honors Diploma. HOPs are designed to offer a wide range of opportunities to develop the breadth of academic and professional experience that will showcase your accomplishments for graduate school and future career prospects.

Taking Honors courses might be the most straightforward way to earn HOPs, but you should also utilize the other options which will lead you to a more unique and impressive Honors Diploma. Take as many Honors courses as you can to fulfill your general education requirements during your freshman and sophomore semesters. But by the end of your freshmen year, it is important that you have identified other options that you would like to pursue to complete your HOPs requirement over the next few years.

To earn your Honors Diploma, you need to earn 14 HOPs, or the equivalent of 2 HOPS for 7 semesters. Choose from the ten options on the following pages to complete your requirements.

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<th>Semester Completed</th>
<th>Option Type</th>
<th>HOPs Earned</th>
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Use this chart to track the Honors Option Points as you complete them. Don’t forget that you need 14 HOPs to earn your Honors diploma!
Honors Courses (Minimum of 3, maximum of 10)

Work smarter, not harder! Honors courses are enriched university courses, not university courses made harder. Grading standards are the same as in other college courses. Honors courses, however, avoid a passive learning approach, aiming to stimulate your thinking and provide the informal, small class environment that encourages discussion and debate on important topics. Honors courses also introduce you to strong faculty members who can assist you in your development as an Honors student. You should strive to enroll in 1-2 Honors course each semester during your freshman and sophomore years. Honors credit is only given for classes successfully completed with at least a B. Note: Opting to take ENGL 103 and ENGL 104, rather than ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 respectively, will earn you 1 HOP per class.

Contract Courses 2 HOPS each

Sometimes class schedules are hard to manage. Other times, a class or professor motivates you to do specialized research on an interesting topic. Contract courses are designed for these reasons. A contract course allows you to gain Honors credit for a non-Honors course, and involves the completion of a 20-page research paper OR a project of equal value, all under the supervision and guidance of your professor. The completion and approval of a contract proposal is required prior to beginning a contract. You must earn at least a B in the course to count for Honors credit.

Travel Courses 2 HOPS each

There is life outside of Edinboro! Travel, study, get HOPS. International study abroad programs allow you to study abroad while you are engaged in a class for college credit. There are exchange programs (students from universities switch places), direct enrollments (you enroll at the host university) or annual PASSHE Summer Honors Program trips. Affordable options are available, but enrollments may be limited. Contact the International Student Services Office to get started.

National study programs, often called “Road Courses,” allow students to travel to locations around the U.S. and learn about the rich history at each stop. Keep an eye on your email or contact your academic advisor and learn about the rich history at each stop. Keep an eye on your email or contact your academic advisor and learn about the rich history at each stop. Keep an eye on your email or contact your academic advisor and learn about the rich history at each stop.

Community Service Projects 1-3 HOPS

This option centers on a significant service project of regional significance. You will be expected to design and implement the off-campus service project from start to finish. HOPs will be awarded according to the following scale:

- 20+ Hours = 1 HOP
- 30+ Hours = 2 HOPS
- 40+ Hours = 3 HOPS

Research/Creative Activities or Independent Studies 2 HOPS each

Complete a semester-long project supported by extensive research that culminates in an Honors project or thesis. You should contact the Director and your academic advisor prior to pursuing this option.

A research project or creative activity project is a project that is completed under the direction of a faculty member, is not part of a course or contract course, and is not credit-bearing.

An independent study is a credit-bearing project that is completed under the direction of a faculty member and that is not part of a course or contract course.

Conference Presentations & Gallery Shows 1-2 HOPS

Show ‘em what you’re made of! This option gives you the opportunity to present your research or creative work in a regional or national conference or gallery show. To earn HOPS, you must have your work accepted through a peer review process.

Regional/University Conference Presentation or Gallery Show (1 HOP)
National/International Conference Presentation or Gallery Show (2 HOPS)

Publications of Research 2-3 HOPS

You’ve created something to be proud of, so why not showcase it? Get your work published to earn HOPS! Your publication must be in an academically-recognized journal and must have undergone a peer review and acceptance process. Note: EU Journals, such as Chimera and Visions & Revisions, are eligible for HOPS credit given that they are peer reviewed by faculty.

Undergraduate Journal (2 HOPS)
Professional or National Journal (3 HOPS)

Internships OR Student Teaching 1-3 HOPS

Internships OR Student Teaching are a great way to obtain real world experience while earning class credit! HOPs will be awarded for internships according to the following scale:

- 3-6 credit internships = 1 HOP
- 7-9 credit internships = 2 HOPS
- 10-15 credit internships = 3 HOPS

Dual Majors, Minors and World Language Studies 2 HOPS

Dual Major or Degree: Two is better than one! If you desire to earn two majors, first contact your academic advisor and the specific academic departments that would be involved. HOPS will be awarded upon the completion of the majors.

Minors: A minor is a set of courses that meets specific guidelines and allows you to complete a sub-major concentration in an area of study. Discuss your interest in a minor with your academic advisor, as well as the academic department for that area of study. HOPS will be awarded upon the completion of the minors.

World Language Study: Parlez-vous français? O Español? Oder Deutsch? You may earn HOPS if you take the four basic courses in a foreign language, plus one additional upper-level language course in the same language, for a total of five courses in the same language. HOPS will be awarded upon the completion of the study. Note: You cannot receive credit for a minor in a World Language and for World Language Studies.