



Providence Extension Program

Are PEP Classes Considered Honors Classes?

Since honors class definitions and guidelines vary from state to state and even within states, this is not a simple yes or no question. Honors designations are often decided by classroom teachers, and PEP leaves the choice to credit a class as honors to the homeschooling parents.

College Board (www.collegeboard.com) provides the following definition: Honors classes often offer the same curriculum as regular classes but are tailored for high-achieving students — covering additional topics or some topics in greater depth.

PEP offers the following guidelines when considering a class for honors designation:

Time Spent in the Classroom and on Coursework

A typical, non-honors class requires a minimum of 120 hours for the school year. Classes that exceed these hours are potential honors candidates. Please see the PEP Coursework handout for a guideline of PEP's expectations for coursework - and compare that with the time your student is spending on the class. Students that spend the recommended study times on core classes will easily meet this requirement.

Prerequisites and Grades Earned

Honors classes offered in schools often have prerequisites for joining - a typical prerequisite is maintaining a "B" in the class taken previously in the same discipline. As an example, a student earning a "B" in honors level Core C comp and lit would be eligible to take honors level Core D comp and lit. Students consistently earning C's and below are not typical honors class candidates.

Comprehensive Study

Honors classes should follow a comprehensive scope and sequence for each topic covered, and PEP's core classes meet this criterion. The concept of a comprehensive worldview across three subjects, along with the focused time periods presented in each of the four years, provide the type of seminar studies that are associated with honors classes in the standard school setting.

Individual Effort and Achievement

In determining honors criteria for your student's diploma, it is important to evaluate what your student is contributing to the class, as well as what is being received. If your student diligently prepares for class, completes all assignments, and is working at top potential, then it is likely that an honors designation should be considered. If your student is unenthusiastic and completes the minimum amount of work required with missing assignments, an honors designation is probably not appropriate.

Questions?

PEP is here to help! If you have concerns or any questions concerning honors classes, please contact your Administrator.