



Honors Contract Courses: Information

Honors students who have completed 12 hours of honors coursework and have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher are eligible to earn honors credit in regular upper-division courses through honors contracts. Honors students are responsible for initiating honors contracts with their professors and are encouraged to pursue honors contracts within their majors. Students should contact professors before the semester begins to determine the feasibility of creating an honors contract for a given course. Faculty members are not required to approve honors contract work.

Students should register for and attend an existing section of the course; the course will be marked "honors" on the student's transcript after the course and honors contract are successfully completed. The proposed honors contract must be approved by the course professor and the honors committee within the first two weeks of the semester.

Honors contracts are designed to enhance the honors students' learning experience by encouraging them to explore an aspect of the course material in greater depth. The focus should be on quality of work rather than quantity. At the teacher's discretion, honors contract work can replace one or more regular course assignments.

Benefits of honors contracts include the opportunity for students to form a closer association with a faculty member, investigate topics of interest at a deeper level, and gain guided, practical preparation for graduate school and professional work.

Contracts are NOT an attempt to undermine the professor's authority. The professor retains final control over course objectives and assignments, as well as complete control of the student's grade for the course.

Students may earn a maximum of 8 hours of honors credit through contract work.

Honors Contract Expectations

For a student to earn honors credit for a course, their honors contract project must meet the following expectations:

1. The learning objective of the honors project should coincide with the learning objectives of the course and the catalog course description.
2. The honors contract will outline the expectations of a specific honors project. When possible, projects should contain serious reading or laboratory experimentation followed by a written report and an oral presentation. A list of examples is below.
3. Honors students will complete honors projects independently, with promptness and professionalism.
4. A grade of "A" or "B" must be earned in the course to qualify for the honors credit. (normal credit for the course may still be earned).

Examples of Honors Contract Projects

When practical, projects should incorporate written reports and oral presentations

1. A series of critiques of newspaper or journal articles or speakers on the course topic
2. Participation in faculty research, followed by a written or oral report
3. Original computer program or project
4. Read and review a classic text and/or a very current book related to the course
5. Original musical composition, sculpture, theatrical script, poetry, or other literary or artistic work.
6. Additional laboratory experiments or mathematical problems
7. Research paper based on interviews or library resources on a topic related to the course (approximately 10 pages)



Honors Contract Application

This application should be filled out by the student!

Personal Information

Student Name: _____

Student e-mail: _____ Student Phone: _____

Student's academic advisor: _____ Student's Major: _____

Course Information

Professor: _____ Course Name: _____

Course Number: _____ (must be upper division, starting with the number "3" or "4")

Course Section Number: _____ Credit Hours: _____

Describe the project and the specific assignments required. Explain how these assignments differ from those required by other members of the course. Include what assignments or activities the honors contract project is replacing.

What course learning objective does this project address? What professional and educational goals will this project help you meet?

Signing this document confirms support of the above project, as well as knowledge and acceptance of the policies associated with honors contract projects.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Professor: _____ Date: _____

Honors Program Director: _____ Date: _____