

Honors Contract FAQ sheet

What is an honors contract?

An honors contract is an individual agreement between an honors student and a professor stating that the student will complete an enriched curriculum to receive honors credit for a non-honors course in which they are enrolled. Students may only complete one honors contract course while in the program.

What is the purpose of an honors contracts?

Students enjoy the opportunity to delve deeply into a particular aspect of the course material. Honors contracts also offer the opportunities for professors to mentor students who have an abiding interest in their area of expertise.

What are some examples of honors contract projects?

There is no set rule defining what constitutes an honors contract and we encourage creativity in designing these projects. The project should be developed collaboratively. In the best case scenario, the student has a particular interest within the course that s/he wants to explore and the professor can help her decide on a worthy project that is tailored to these interests.

- A portfolio of responses to academic and/or other forms of reading
- listening, viewing or experiential assignments
- a research project on a specific topic identified as an area of interest to the student
- a significant annotated bibliography / literature review

But you can also set up a project that would benefit the entire class or the college:

- a presentation to the class of the research conducted
- tutoring of other students in the class
- organizing a meaningful field trip for the class
- showing a film and monitoring a discussion
- leading a discussion on a pertinent topic

What is the difference between an honors contract and an honors thesis project?

An honors contract is appended to an existing non-honors course. An honors thesis project enables students to set up an entire course devoted to a research project that requires extensive reading, writing, and experimentation. Honors Theses must be presented at the college-wide Honors Capstone Project presentation at the end of the academic year.

How is the contract satisfied?

The professor will notify the Program Coordinator that the student has completed the assigned task satisfactorily. The student must also receive a B or higher in the course for this to count as an honors course.

