Honors Contract Process

Exceptional Honors Contracts involve engaged participants who collaborate to develop a compelling plan, guided by a recommended process, to support the creation of a product that could be shared with an audience.

A successful Honors Contract should represent approximately 15 hours of work beyond regular course requirements, which equates to about 1 additional hour per week throughout the semester.

Student Responsibilities

Review the guidelines for Honors Contracts on the Honors Program website and investigate the electronic form and its required fields.

Look for topics in syllabi that are of interest and/or identify an instructor with whom to collaborate.

Take initiative to approach the instructor with one or more ideas around which to base an Honors Contract.

Complete the electronic form with a description of the topic or focus of the Honors Contract and the anticipated product or outcome.

Meet with the instructor throughout the semester to seek feedback and guidance, as well as to communicate progress to date.

Submit final product/evidence of completion to the course instructor.

Complete Honors Contract reflection via the electronic form.

Instructor Responsibilities

Review the expectations for Honors Contracts on the Honors Program website.

Meet with students who share an interest in completing Honors Contracts to discuss the required fields of the electronic form (topic/focus; anticipated product/outcome; check-in date(s); completion date).

Email notifications will automatically be sent to course instructors when students submit forms to complete Honors Contracts. Contact the student if the information submitted is not what was agreed upon in advance.

Meet with the student(s) throughout the semester to serve as a resource and to provide feedback or guidance.

Review the student's final product.

Complete the electronic form to assess the student's level of completion of the Honors Contract.

Honors Program Responsibilities

Alert all students within the Honors Program to the Honors Contract process, including expectations, resources, and procedures—specifically the use of an electronic form and the requirement to submit evidence of contract completion to the instructor.

Provide resources and guidance to students and instructors via our website, as well as electronic and personal communication.

Review Honors Contracts for completeness, scope, and clarity. Provide timely feedback to the student and instructor (within one week) if adjustments or resubmissions are required.

Send email notifications to instructors with a link to:
- Verify contract completion;
- Evaluate the student's product; and
- Provide feedback (if desired).

Recognize the completion of Honors Contracts by:
- Designating the course as an Honors Learning Experience, noted by an "H" on the transcript.

What is an Honors Contract?

Students collaborate with an instructor to turn a regular course into an Honors Learning Experience. Students select an aspect of a course or a related topic to take learning further and create a product that integrates one or more Dimensions of Honors Learning.

HONORS LEARNING *Experiences*:
Honors Contracts

QUESTIONS TO *Consider*

As you review your course syllabi…

What sparks your curiosity?

What topic(s) could be explored further or extended in some way?

Is there a related topic that "seems to be missing" or could potentially connect to the course content?

Could a deeper understanding of a certain topic or creation of a unique product support your career goals?

INITIATING HONORS CONTRACT *Conversations*

Taking a Single Topic Further:

"I reviewed the syllabus and see we are spending __#__ classes on __this topic__. I am very interested in this topic and would like to complete an Honors Contract to explore it further.
- If you had the time in class and could take this topic further, what would you do?
- What additional resources would you use? Are there scholars of this subject that I should know?
- Would you be willing to help me develop a plan?"

Proposing Interdisciplinary Learning:

"I see in the syllabus that we are studying __this topic__. I am very interested in learning more about how __this topic__ relates to __that topic__ by completing an Honors Contract.
- Are you aware of research that has already been done connecting these two topics?
- In what ways could I connect these two topics that could help me understand both more deeply?"

Creating a Specific Product with a Career in Mind:

"I am a(n) _____ major. I would like to apply the topics we are studying by developing a __(name of a product)__ that I could use when I am a __(career role)__ by collaborating with you to complete an Honors Contract."

Connecting an Interest to a Course Topic to Enrich Learning:

"I am interested in _____. I would like to connect __this course topic__ with this interest by pursuing an Honors Contract. Would you be willing to work with me to focus this idea?"

Applying a Talent to Demonstrate Mastery of a Course Topic:

"One of my talents is _____. I would like to connect __this course topic__ with my talent by completing an Honors Contract. Would you be willing to collaborate with me?"

Honors Contracts: Potential Product Ideas

Products that Leverage Auditory and/or Verbal Skills	Products that Utilize Visual Skills	Products that Maximize Tactile-Kinesthetic Skills
Advice column	Advertisement	Activity plan
Assessment tool	Animation	Book talk/poetry slam
Audio recording	Billboard	Bulletin board
Autobiography	Blueprint	Character sketch
Blog	Book jacket	Coding
Book/booklet	Book trailer/movie trailer	Composing music
Book review/critique	Brochure	Dance
Commentary	Collage	Data collection/entry
Critical paper	Comic book/comic strip	Demonstration
Debate or panel discussion	Costume	Dramatization
Dialogue	Diagram	Exhibit
Documentary	Drawing or painting	Experiment
Editorial	Flow chart	Field experience
Essay	Flyer	Flip book
Experiment	Glog	Flip chart
Family tree	Graphic organizer	Game
Finding patterns	Infographic	▪ Concrete or digital
Glossary	Illustrated manual	How-to book
Interview	Illustrations	Invention
Journal	Marketing proposal	Jigsaw puzzle
Lesson plan/unit	Magazine	Manipulatives
Letter	Map	Mobile
Magazine article	Multimedia product	Model
▪ Primary or secondary language	▪ PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.	Newscast
Monologue	Mural	Papier-mâché
Newspaper article/edition	Pamphlet	Performance
Oral report/review	Photobiography	▪ Reader's Theater, recital, etc.
Parody	Picture dictionary	Photograph
Pattern and instructions	Pinterest board(s)	Play or skit
Petition	Political cartoon	Pop-up book
Podcast	Portfolio	Prototype
▪ Fictitious, informational, satirical, etc.	Poster	Reader's Theater
Position paper	Rebus story	Rhythmic pattern
Questionnaire	Scrapbook	Scale drawing
Reading	Timeline	Scavenger hunt
Scavenger hunt	Travelogue	Sculpture
Screencast	Video	Set design
Script/screenplay	Website	Simulation
Song lyrics	WebQuest	Survey
Speech	Word cloud	Televised broadcast
Story or poem	Wordless book	
Survey		
Teaching a lesson		
TED talk		
Written report		

Mapping a Meaningful Honors Contract Experience

This form has been provided to help you pace and track your progress. Completion of this form is optional.

Date	Hour Count	Progress Toward Product (Record of Tasks Accomplished)	Questions, Notes, etc.
Contract Proposal Development			
			Instructor Approval
			Instructor Check Point
			Instructor Check Point
			Contract Completion *Consider whether your final product be shared with a wider audience.*

☐ Make a copy of (or document) the product created to fulfill the Honors Contract.
☐ Provide evidence of the completed contract to the course instructor no later than the last class before final exams.