

Table of Contents



Honors Handbook

1. 2015-2017 Honors Courses	3
2. Membership Requirements	4
3. Honors Scholar Award	5
4. The Honors Curriculum	6-7
Honors Courses	
The Honors Seminar	
Automatic Honors Courses	
5. Honors Contracts	8-9
6. The Honors Club	10-11
Club Overview	
Club Committees	
Club Officers and Election Policy	
7. Who's Who in the HP	12
8. Honors Center Code of Conduct	13
9. Special Honors Events	14
The Honors Retreat	
The Honors Research Symposium	
UCLA TAP Certification	

Appendix

Honors Philosophy Statement
Honors Contract Cover Sheet
Sample Honors Contract Proposals

Honors Courses 2015-2017

	Honors Course	Professor	Honors Category
Fall 2015	Astronomy 10 Honors Introduction to Astronomy <i>Section #3654 MWF 9-9:50 AM</i>	Cabral	Math/Science
	Economics 5 Honors Economic History of the U.S. <i>Section #0134 MW 1-2:20 PM</i>	Lugani	Social/Behavioral Sci
	English 221 Honors Advanced Comp & Critical Thinking <i>Section #1405 MWF 10-10:50 AM</i>	Sterling	Humanities/Fine Arts
	Humanities 30 Honors Modernist Paris <i>Section #0122 TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM</i>	Saito	Humanities/Fine Arts
	Speech 110 Honors Speech Communication <i>Section #2000 TuTh 11 AM-12:20 PM</i>	Arcidiacono	Social/Behavioral Sci
	Philosophy 2 Environmental Ethics <i>Section # 0091 Tu 7-9:50 PM</i>	Smith	Honors Seminar
Spring 2016	Art 5 Honors Visual Arts Concepts	Corlew	Humanities/Fine Arts
	Biology 8 Honors Human Biology	Wellbrook	Math/Science
	Math 34 Honors Introduction to Statistics	Estrada	Math/Science
	Political Science 33/Philosophy 33 Honors History of Political Thought	Zimny	Social/Behavioral Sci or Humanities/Fine Arts
	Philosophy 2 The Ethics of Information	Goff & McGrath	Honors Seminar
Fall 2016 & Spring 2017	<i>The following courses plus 2 more will be offered during the 2016-17 academic year.</i>		
	Anthropology 4 Honors Introduction to Archaeology <i>Professor Padilla-Wilson</i>		
	Biology 7 Honors Ecology & the Environment <i>Professor McCarthy</i>		
	Drama 16 Honors Theatre Appreciation <i>Professor Garcia</i>		
	English 221 Honors Composition & Critical Thinking, <i>Professor Sterling</i>		
	Journalism 100 Honors Mass Communication		
	Philosophy 2 Contemporary Ethical Issues. <i>Offered both semesters</i>		
	Physical Science 5 Honors General Physical Science <i>Professor Gravert</i>		
	Speech 110 Honors Speech Communication		

Membership Requirements

Active Membership

To be an “Active Member” of the Honors Program for 2015-16, students must fulfill **all three** of the following requirements:

1. Honors Course/ Contract Completion
2. Honors Club Involvement
3. English 100 Completion—*provisional admits only*

Honors Course/Contract Completion Requirement

To fulfill this requirement, you must complete **two** Honors Courses or Contracts this academic year (Fall 2015 & Spring 2016) with a grade of C or better. Most students take one per semester, but if it suits your schedule you can also take two in one semester. For example, you might take two Honors Courses for Fall 2015 but none in Spring 2016.

Honors Club Involvement Requirement

All Honors Program members are automatically members of the Honors Club. To be an Active Member of the program, you must be “involved” in the Club both semesters this academic year. Involvement is defined by

- ◇ Attending at least two Committee or Executive Board meetings, **and**
- ◇ Spending at least 2 hours helping with a Club sponsored event.

Examples of ways to help might include: organizing an end of semester party, ushering at an Honors Program sponsored political debate, or donating food or time for a fundraising BBQ. See pp. 10-11.

English 100 Completion Requirement

High achieving freshmen and English 90 students are allowed to join the Honors Program provisionally. These students must enroll in and complete English 100 with an A or B during the Fall 2015 semester to continue in the program. If, mid-semester, you decide to drop your English class, be aware that it will place your membership in the Honors Program in jeopardy.

Exceptions are made for students unable to enroll in English 100 due to full sections or extreme circumstances by petitioning the Honors Board.

What if I Don't Fulfill the Participation Requirements?

Each spring the Honors Directors drops all students from Honors membership lists who have not fulfilled the membership requirements. These students will be notified of their removal and must reapply if they wish to participate in the future. Only Active Honors Students receive a membership certificate and recognition in the award ceremonies. Students who have been unable to be active because of unusual personal circumstances may petition the Board for a waiver so they can continue in the program.

Membership Renewal

To continue in the Honors Program for the 2016-2017 academic year, you must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher. Once Spring 2016 grades are reported, the Honors Director will check all active Honors Students' GPAs. Students who have dropped below 3.25 will not have their membership renewed, though they may reapply when they've brought up their grades. In special circumstances, students may petition the Honors Board to waive this requirement.

2015-16 Member Checklist

- + **Complete 2 Honors Courses or Contracts**
- + **Be Active in Honors Club 2 semesters**
- + **Complete English 100 with an A or B**

Honors Scholar Award

Scholar Requirements

The Honors Scholar award is the highest academic award granted by Los Medanos College. To become an Honors Scholar a student must fulfill **all three** of the following:

- 1. Complete Five Honors Courses or Contracts with a grade of “C” or better including:**
 - ◇ **The Honors Seminar**, a Philosophy 2 ethics course offered every semester;
 - ◇ An Honors Course/Contract in **Humanities or Fine Arts**;
 - ◇ An Honors Course/Contract in **Social or Behavioral Sciences**;
 - ◇ An Honors Course/Contract in **Science or Mathematics**.
 - ◇ An **elective** Honors Course/Contract in any discipline
- 2. Be involved in the Honors Club**
- 3. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.**

Note: If a student has already taken Philosophy 2 prior to joining the program, he/she may substitute any Honors Course in its place.

Credit/No Credit

Only one of the five Honors Courses (or courses attached to an Honors Contract) may be taken on a Credit/No Credit basis to become an Honors Scholar.

Benefits Of Being An Honor Scholar

As a proud Honors Scholar you’ll receive:

- ◇ A gold Honors Scholar medal awarded by the LMC President in an official ceremony;
- ◇ An certificate recognizing your accomplishment; and
- ◇ Special recognition in the Student Success and Graduation Ceremonies

UCLA Transfer Certification GPA

Honors Scholars who have a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA may be “certified” to receive special admission consideration at UCLA. See pg. 14.

Do I Have To Be An Honors Scholar?

No. For a variety of reasons, many students choose to take only a few Honors Courses. For example, if you join with only a few classes left to take at LMC, you might not be able to fit five Honors Courses in your schedule. But remember, even one or two Honors Courses/Contracts look great on your transcript and you can still brag about being a program member and participate in all our activities.

5 Honors Courses

Humanities/Fine Arts
Science or Math
Social/Behavioral Science
Honors Seminar
Honors Elective

+

3.25

GPA

=

**Honors
Scholar
Medal**

The Honors Curriculum

Honors Courses

Honors Courses are special sections of LMC classes which are more advanced and are only open to Honors Students. Honors Courses are the best way to get honors credit on your transcript because they offer an intensive and personal experience in a community of similarly high-achieving students. We choose some of LMC's best professors to teach these courses which meet most students' transfer and AA/AS general education requirements. To help students progress through LMC, we rotate these courses on a regular basis and students are recommended to plan their schedules around them. See page 3 for the 2015-17 classes.

Do They Have A Lot More Work?

No. Honors Classes don't have *more* work than their regular counterparts, rather they have *different* work. For example, while the regular Philosophy 2 class requires three 7-page papers, so does the Honors version. However, the topics of these papers will probably be more sophisticated and you might be asked to collaborate with others on projects and presentations as opposed to doing it all yourself. It is also often the case that Honors Courses use more advanced books than the regular sections so you'll get to pay closer attention to the intricacies of the material.

Bottom line— you will work harder in your Honors Courses, but you will find them your favorite classes because of the fascinating material and the stimulation you'll get from your fellow Honors Students. Plus, the Honors Courses are great preparation for the advanced work you'll encounter when you transfer!

How Will Honors Courses Be Graded?

Honors Courses are not graded on a curve so you will not be forced to compete for a limited number of A's. Your Honors Professors know that you are being graded on material which requires more. This additional effort required in an Honors Course will be reflected in your grades, but as in any class, students who fail to meet course standards will be assigned low marks.

Honors Course Characteristics

No single model of an Honors Course can be superimposed on all disciplines. There is rich variation among different departments and professors in their modes of inquiry, pedagogical approaches and types of assignments. However, certain characteristics are often present in the most effective Honors Courses:

Honors Courses emphasize advanced topics and deeper understanding

- ◇ More sophisticated reading assignments; primary sources instead of excerpts, anthologies and summative textbooks; novels instead of short stories, etc.
- ◇ Exposure to more advanced material and cutting edge ideas, research and trends
- ◇ Emphasis on challenging writing assignments that require generative rather than responsive work and higher levels of synthesis
- ◇ Assignments which involve substantial research and which emphasize problem solving

Honors Courses emphasize creative & collaborative teaching & learning.

- ◇ More student-directed and generated teaching, projects and assignments
- ◇ Collaboration and group projects encouraged
- ◇ Dialogue used as a learning tool as students are guided through the preparation, presentation, critique and counter critique process
- ◇ Team-taught, paired or themed Honors Courses encouraged
- ◇ Healthy competitions used to motivate students: quiz games, debates, etc.

Honors Courses give students more opportunities to engage with material in the real world.

- ◇ A “beyond books” or “out-of-the-classroom” approach to material: field trips, surveys, laboratories, field work
- ◇ Service Learning/ Community Engagement part of class assignments
- ◇ Wider variety of knowledge sources: conferences, guest lecturers, etc.
- ◇ Assignments that encourage students to relate material to their own lives

Honors Courses create a safe community of learners that stimulates students’ intellectual courage

- ◇ Honors Professor as a model of a curious and enthusiastic learner
- ◇ Emphasis on intellectual intimacy and a shared delight in exploring a topic
- ◇ Establishment of an authentic classroom community to create more self-confidence and bonding for students

The Honors Seminar

The Honors Seminar is a semester-long interdisciplinary course which helps students engage with real world controversies about challenging ethical dilemmas. Each Seminar covers cutting edge topics and has all the same benefits of Honors Courses: small size, great professors and wonderful classmates. *We recommend that you take this course towards the end of your time at LMC.* It is offered every semester and is required for all Honors Scholars.

2015-16 Honors Seminar Topics

Fall 2015: Philosophy 2: Environmental Ethics
Professor Jennifer Smith

Spring 2016: Philosophy 2: The Ethics of Information;
Professors Christina Goff and Cindy McGrath

Automatic Honors Courses

BIG CHANGES for 2015-16!

The Honors Program grants “automatic” honors credit for students taking certain advanced math and science courses. These courses count towards the Honors Scholar requirements but do not appear on students’ transcripts. **Starting this Fall 2015, these Automatic Courses will no longer apply towards UCLA Honors TAP Certification.** This means that while Automatic Honors Courses will help you receive your LMC Honors Scholar medal, you cannot apply them to the 5 required Honors Courses for UCLA.

If you are not applying to UCLA, this change doesn’t concern you at all. But if you are, please be sure you have at least 5 non-Automatic Honors Courses/Contracts and your Honors Scholar medal.

The Automatic Honors Courses Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 are

- ◇ **Biological Science 20 & 21;**
- ◇ **Chemistry 28 & 29;**
- ◇ **Math 70, 75 and 80;**
- ◇ **Physics 40, 41 & 42, and**
- ◇ **Registered Nursing 22,26,31 & 36.**

Honors Contracts

Honors Contracts are individually designed projects attached to non-Honors sections. They give program members who cannot fit Honors Courses into their schedule the opportunity for academic work in the Honors Program. Honors Contracts give you the unique opportunity to work one-on-one with your professors on personally created projects which complement the regular work in the course attached to the Contract. This is a great opportunity to get creative and receive Honors transcript credit at the same time. However, you should be aware that Honors Contracts take a lot of self motivation, organization and discipline, so be prepared. *See the next section for more information on Honors Contracts.*

Honors Contracts

Honors Contract Eligibility

Honors students must obtain the approval of the Honors Director before beginning the Honors Contract process. The Director will approve the student's undertaking of an Honors Contract if either of the following circumstances apply:

- ◇ No Honors Courses fit the student's schedule and/or educational plan; or
- ◇ The student has an intense interest in doing original work in a subject matter related to her/his major or area of personal interest.

Honors Students are strongly encouraged to obtain this approval from the Honors Director and begin the planning process *the semester before* they intend to do their Contract.

Honors Contract Guidelines

- 1.** The Honors Contract Project should take about **25 hours** for the student to complete.
- 2.** The Honors student should have **regular contact with the professor** for guidance. There should be at least six contacts: about one every three weeks.
- 3.** There should be **clear outcomes** for the project which may include one or more of the following:
 - 15-20 page Research Paper
 - Demonstration of an advanced skill
 - Creative Project such as a musical performance or artwork
 - Class Presentation
 - Service/Community Based Learning Project

What Courses Are Eligible?

Any college level course is eligible for Honors Contract credit. This excludes things like Beginning or Intermediate Algebra, etc.

How Do I Initiate An Honors Contract?

Within the first week of the semester, and preferably even before this, you should approach the Honors

Director to obtain approval for doing the Contract. Then contact your professor and begin developing a proposal. Your proposal will clarify exactly what you plan on doing for your Honors Contract, how you will do this, and when it will all be done. Use the "Honors Contract Proposal Form" as a guideline. Sample forms and proposals are in the Appendix.

Proposal Development

Typically you will bounce back and forth between your professor and the Honors Director as you develop your proposal. Your professor is the expert on the subject matter, while the Honors Director is the expert on the proposal review process. Most students find that they go through multiple drafts as they refine their idea and clarify their project.

Be sure you design a project that is the right size.

25 hours may sound like a lot, but most first drafts are way too ambitious in their scope.

Develop a precise question that drives the research.

You want to pursue something that is neither too general, nor too specific. For example, saying your project will investigate race relations in the U.S. military is way too broad. A better topic would be to research how the creation of African American battalions during the Civil War affected the next 20 years of integration policies in the Army.

Be specific about outcomes and quantify whenever possible.

If you're writing a paper, how many pages will it be and when will you turn in your drafts? If you're composing a piece of music, be specific about the length of its performance and how many musicians will be involved.

Submitting Your Proposal

When your proposal is finalized, have your professor sign it and submit the Honors Contract Proposal Form to the Honors Director by the deadline, typically the end of the fourth week of classes. The Honors Advisory Board then meets to review all proposals and decide whether they are approved, need revision, or are not acceptable.

Notification of Proposal Status

Within one week the student and professor will be notified by e-mail of the Board's decision. If the Board has requested revisions, the student has one week to get an updated proposal back to the Honors Director.

Completing the Contract

Once the Honors Contract has been approved, the student proceeds according to the plan. At the end of the semester, the project is turned into the professor who determines whether it meets the guidelines agreed upon. If it is deemed satisfactory, the professor contacts the Honors Director who will ensure proper credit is given for the Honors Contract.

How Will Honors Contracts Be Graded?

The Honors Contract is graded on a "Pass/No Pass" basis and will in no way affect the student's grade in the course. Successful completion of the Honors Contract will result in the student's receiving honors credit for the course on her/his transcript and a certificate noting the accomplishment. Note that you must receive a "C" or better in the course to receive this honors credit.

Can I "Back Out" My Honors Contract?

Honors students may drop out of the Honors Contract obligation at any time during the semester. This termination of the Contract will not go on the student's transcript, however s/he will not receive Honors credit for the class. Failure to complete an Honors Contract will be taken into account the next time the student submits a contract proposal and if this happens twice, the student's membership in the Honors Program will be reviewed by the Board.

Can I Get An "Incomplete" In My Contract If I Don't Finish In Time?

The Honors Contract must be completed before the end of the semester. There are no Incomplete grades allowed for honors contracts. However, in the case that the student receives an Incomplete in the overall course in accordance with college guidelines, the student shall be permitted time to complete the Honors Contract along with the course.

Honors Contract Checklist

- + **Get Honors Director Approval**
- + **Obtain Your Professor's Agreement**
- + **Collaborate with Honors Director and Professor on Proposal**
 - **What topic or skill from the regular class do you want to expand?**
 - **What will the final outcome of your project be? Paper? Performance? Artwork? Etc.**
 - **Conduct initial research to determine feasibility**
 - **Refine drafts of your proposal until you have both the Honors Director and your Professor's approval**
- + **Turn in Signed Proposal by Deadline**
- + **Respond to Honors Board Review**
- + **Get to Work and Complete Project by Agreed Upon Deadline.**

The Honors Club

What is the Honors Club?

The Honors Club is an extra-curricular student organization which adds a social and leadership dimension to the Honors Program. We are one of the most active groups on campus and organize lots of fun, stimulating and helpful events for our members and the LMC community. Honors Students are encouraged to get involved with the Club, make friends and have fun – all important parts of the college experience! And, of course, you know that universities and scholarship agencies are looking for students who combine academic excellence with extra curricular activities. Why not get involved or become an officer this year?

Club Membership & Purpose

All members of the Honors Program are automatically members of the Club. The Club's purpose is to enrich the Honors Program, LMC and our community by organizing intellectual, cultural and social events.

Club Structure

The Honors Club is divided up into committees which work on various projects related to their purpose. Each of these committees has an officer in charge known as the "Ambassador" who organizes each committee's work. The four main officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) work with these Ambassadors to coordinate all the Club's activities and priorities. All officers sit on the Executive Board which meets weekly.

Honors Club Committees

Enrichment Event Committee:

This committee organizes intellectually and artistically stimulating events for LMC. Examples include film festivals, political forums, and guest speakers.

Social Committee

The Social Committee plans fun events for LMC Honors Students and their guests. Examples include "First Friday" food and game events, parties and outings such as trips to plays and hiking expeditions.

Fundraising Committee

This important group raises money to help support the Club activities. Examples include organizing our famous lumpia sales, the Kiss the Frog Contest, and candy sales.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee organizes ways for Honors Students to help our community. Examples include volunteering at local food distribution centers, visits to local retirement homes, beach clean-up events etc.

Club Requirement

To be an Active Honors Student, you must attend 2 club meetings and help with an honors activity for 2-hours *each semester*.

Officer Elections

Officer Elections are held in two waves. At the end of the previous year, the President, Vice President, Enrichment, Fundraising and Communications & Publicity Officers will be elected from continuing Honors Students. At the beginning of the new year in August, the remaining officers will be elected. This allows new students to run for an office, but ensures summer planning can take place.

All Honors Students are eligible to run for any position and you are allowed to run for more than one office. This is encouraged as most of the races are competitive.

Honors Club Officers

Club Officer Duties

President

Set direction for and help coordinate all club activities; chair the Executive Board.

Vice-President

Assist the President in his/her functions and perform the duties of President in his/her absence.

Secretary

Keep minutes of all Executive Board meetings.

Treasurer

Keep track of all Club monies and facilitate our deposits and check writing.

Enrichment Event Ambassador

Chair the Enrichment Event Committee and help coordinate all its activities

Fundraising Ambassador

Chair the Fundraising Committee and coordinate all its activities.

Social Ambassador

Chair the Social Committee and coordinate all its activities

Outreach Ambassador

Chair the Outreach Committee and coordinate all its activities.

Inter Club Council Ambassador

The Inter Club Council (ICC) is made up of representatives from all LMC Student Clubs. Its purpose is to facilitate communication between the clubs and to distribute funds to assist them with events they organize for the entire campus. The Honors ICC Ambassador attends the weekly ICC meetings, shares details about

Honors Club activities and reports back on other clubs' plans. The ICC Ambassador also facilitates Honors Club requests for ICC funds.

Communications and Publicity Ambassador

Maintain the Honors Facebook site with up-to-date announcements and information. Work with the LMC Experience and Student Activities to publicize upcoming events.

Historian

Maintain a scrapbook for the Honors Program and post photos on the Honors Facebook site.

Honors Club Past Events

- ◇ **Giant Corn Maze Halloween Outing**
- ◇ **Mount Diablo Summit Hike**
- ◇ **Valentine's Day Quiz Bowl & Speed Dating**
- ◇ **First Friday Pizza Parties**
- ◇ **Thanksgiving Potluck**
- ◇ **Chinese New Year Cultural Day**
- ◇ **Family Shelter Easter Egg Party**
- ◇ **Political Debates**
 - Legalizing Marijuana**
 - Same-Sex Marriage**
 - Iraq War**
- ◇ **Homeless Shelter Letters & Care Packages**

Who's Who in Honors

Honors Director

As the Honors Director, Professor Jennifer Saito oversees and coordinates all program details. She also maintains the program's ties with honors organizations and transfer partners. Jennifer is responsible for certifying students as Honors Scholars and works closely with them in the transfer admissions process. Any issues Honors Students have besides planning their academic schedules should be brought to her. Jennifer is here to help you be successful and have an enjoyable and successful experience.

Honors Assistant

Maureen Willhoite assists Jennifer in making everything happen. Whether it's ensuring you get the right certificates, arranging details for all the Honors trips or co-advising the Honors Club, Maureen is the glue that holds everything together. Her office is right across from Jennifer's – come ask her anything about LMC!

Honors Counselor

Luis Morales meets with Honors Students in workshops or one-on-one to help them choose their classes, discuss their major, pick transfer universities and other academic planning details. We recommend you plan to see him once per semester.

Honors Advisory Board

The Honors Program Advisory Board is made up of Los Medanos faculty, classified staff, students and administrators. Its role is to create policy and procedures, oversee admissions, select the honors courses and approve Honors Contract proposals.

2015-2016 Board Members

Marie Arcidiacono, David Belman, Scott Cabral, Jorge Cea, Curtis Corlew, Kasey Gardner, Richard Livingston, Cindy McGrath, Sandra Mills, Luis Morales, Christine Park, Jennifer Saito, Alex Sterling, Maureen Willhoite, Nancy Ybarra and David Zimny

Active Honors Members

Every student who is admitted to the Honors Transfer Program and fulfills the participation requirements (see pg. 4) is considered an "Active Member" and may place this designation on her/his scholarship and transfer applications. Active Members receive a certificate of membership at the end of each academic year.

Honors Scholars

Any student who completes the five required Honors Courses with a 3.25 or higher GPA and has two semesters of Honors Club participation and is considered an "Honors Scholar". This is the highest academic award granted by Los Medanos College. See pg. 5.

If you will be continuing at LMC after receiving your Honors Scholar award you have "emeritus status" in the program which means you no longer need to take Honors Courses to be an active member. You do, however, need to maintain your Club Hours.

The Honors Center

Okay, technically this shouldn't be in the "Who's Who" section, but you'll find that the Honors Center plays just as important a role in the program as all the folks listed above. The Honors Center is the hub of the program -- a great space for Honors Students to collaborate on projects, study, meet with the Honors Director, work on the Honors Club, and (of course) hang out with each other!

The Honors Center

Honors Center Hours

The Honors Center opens at 8AM and typically closes at 5PM except for days on which there are evening Honors Courses. On those nights, we remain open until the start of the Honors class.

Honors Center Resources

The Honors Center has computers, study tables and couches. We have a copy machine, a refrigerator and most office supplies you'll need. Printing is free for Honors Students but please don't take advantage of this policy. Try to limit your printing to 20 pages at one time and whenever possible print on *both sides* to conserve paper.

Your guests are welcome to be in the Honors Center with you, but please be sure they respect the Honors Center Code of Conduct as explained below.

Code of Conduct

The Honors Center is a public space and it is a place of business for faculty, staff and students. To help foster an environment that supports these efforts, here are some community guidelines to keep in mind:

Honors Center Environment

The primary purpose of the Honors Center is to be a quiet place where Honors Students can study, hang out and collaborate quietly with their fellow students. In general loud socializing and amplified music are not permitted. However, during certain special events (like First Friday pizza parties!) things can get happy and noisy. We'll be sure to publicize these in advance so you know when finding another study location would be advised.

Professional Dialogue

The way we speak and act together should demonstrate our mutual respect. Avoid profanity and/or derogatory ethnic, gender or sexual orientation slurs.

Computer Priority

Computer usage is primarily for homework, communication and research. **No games are allowed.** Also, please be ready to give up the computer if you are just checking Facebook when others need it for homework.

Amplified Sounds

Please use headphones when listening to music or watching videos so as not to disturb studying students.

Food and Drink

Eating is fine in the Honors Center, but please clean up after yourself. All food left (even for a few minutes) on a table may be thrown away. We empty the refrigerator every Friday afternoon and everything left in there (including Tupperware) will be thrown away.

Public Displays of Affection

While we all love being in love, nobody loves to have their studying distracted by "overly amorous" public displays. Please be respectful of your fellow Honors Students.

Special Honors Events

Honors Retreat

This is the premier social event of the year! Every fall a hearty group of Honors Students and Faculty spend the weekend at Camp Tuolumne Trails just outside the Yosemite park entrance. It is highly recommended that all new Honors Students attend as it is the best way to jump into the program. You'll come back with memories and friends to last a lifetime, we promise! Activities include swimming, camp fires, S'mores, hay rides, games, star viewing, fascinating talks, Yosemite hiking and the infamous Bad Poetry Contest. This year's Retreat is September 11-13. Don't miss it.

Honors Research Symposium

This statewide conference for community college honors students is the premier academic event of the year. Held every spring at either Stanford or UC Berkeley, the Honors Research Symposium gives you an opportunity to present your work in an academic setting to fellow scholars. Most students who participate call this the most important and life-changing academic event of their time at Los Medanos College.

Any research project you complete in an Honors Course can be submitted for presentation at the Symposium. The selection process is very competitive. Last year only about 45% of the submitted proposals were accepted, but don't worry - Jennifer will help you with yours. And, if you're selected, a team of professors will work with you to prepare and practice your talk.

This year's Symposium is at UC Berkeley in early May. Jennifer will run workshops before the spring semester to help you get started on your proposal to present which will be due around Valentine's Day, 2016.

UCLA Transfer Certification

Los Medanos is proud to be the only East Bay community college to be part of the coveted UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP). This program gives special admission privileges to qualified students. See their website at www.admissions.ucla.edu/prospect/adm_tr/adm_cco/tap.htm

Who qualifies for TAP Certification?

Honors students with at least a **3.5 GPA** who are **on track to complete, their Honors Scholar requirements including at least 5-non-Automatic Honors Courses/Contracts** by the end of Spring 2016 can be TAP Certified. Note that this GPA is *higher than* what you need to receive the Honors Scholar award.

How does the TAP Certification Work?

When you apply to UCLA in November be sure to strategically choose a back-up major after consulting with Jennifer. By early February, she will contact all UCLA applicant Honors Students who are on track to complete their Honors Scholar requirements by the end of the spring semester to start the certification paperwork process. The deadline for this paperwork is generally early March.

How will TAP Certification Help Me?

TAP Certification provides admission benefits for students applying to UCLA's College of Letters and Science. So, if you're an engineer, nurse, or performing arts major the certification won't help you.

All TAP certified students are allowed to choose a back-up major. For example, your primary major might be English, and your back-up major Comparative Literature. If you are not admitted under your primary major, you are given a second chance to be considered for this back-up major. Statistically, TAP students tend to be admitted to UCLA at twice the regular rate, quite a boost! Certain impacted majors may not be chosen as your back-up major.

Appendix

Honors Program Philosophy Statement
Honors Contract Proposal Cover Sheet
Sample Honors Contract Proposals

Program Philosophy Statement

The Los Medanos College Honors Program prepares highly motivated students for transfer to selective universities and gives them the opportunity to obtain their Associate's Degree with an enhanced academic experience. The program also helps create "lifelong learners" and builds the intellectual and social skills needed for success outside the classroom by offering students access to challenging courses, independent research projects, cultural events, and personalized academic and transfer guidance. To streamline this transfer process, the program is committed to negotiating priority or guaranteed admission and scholarship offerings for its graduates at competitive public and private universities.

The opportunities created by the Honors Program will extend to the entire college community which will benefit from Los Medanos' reputation as a first-rate academic institution. Faculty, in particular, will be supported and encouraged by the Honors Transfer Program to create innovative curriculum and sponsor cultural and intellectual activities for students.

Many of our students have struggled through adversity to achieve intellectual mastery. While talent itself is a resource, it needs expression and guidance. To this end, the Honors Program takes seriously its mission of both recruiting and cultivating honors students, nurturing and encouraging those who might never have considered themselves capable of success in an enhanced learning environment or prominent university.



HONORS CONTRACT PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Student Name: _____	Student E-mail: _____
Professor Name: _____	Prof. E-mail: _____
Course Number and Title: _____	Section Number: _____

Please attach a typed 1-2 page summary of excellent quality which details the project you and your professor have designed for your Honors Contract. Submit to Jennifer Saito by NOON on Friday, September 11. Your proposal MUST be signed and address all of the following areas:

- 1. Project Goal, Driving Question and Thesis:** What is the ultimate learning goal of this project? What question drives all the work on this project? If applicable, what is your current working thesis?
- 2. Project Outcomes:** What will be the outcome and/or evidence of completion of this project? Be specific about quantity whenever possible.
- 3. Paper Outline:** If your project involves turning in an analytical, research or informative paper, please provide a rough outline.
- 4. Project Resource List:** List all sources (books, magazines, personal interviews etc.) you intend to consult as you complete your project. Be specific.
- 5. Project Process & Timeline:** Please detail the steps you will take as you complete your honors project along with a timeline for each step's completion. Include your scheduled meetings with your professor.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved the final version of this Honors Proposal Contract. The academic standards reflected in this Proposal are of high quality and meet my expectations for an Honors Contract. I will meet with the student regularly and ensure that the final product fulfills this Contract.

Professor Signature _____



Honors Contract Proposal

1. Project Goal, Objectives and Thesis: The goal of my project is to learn how to navigate a sailboat on the ocean, out-of-sight of land, using only the principles of celestial navigation.

2. Project Outcomes: The outcome for this project will be a successful journey from the San Francisco to Monterey using the celestial navigation skills I have acquired. Evidence of this journey will include a 10-page minimum journal of the learning process and actual journey, photos, and a video which will be used in a presentation before my entire astronomy class.

3. Project Resource List

Books: *The Nautical Almanac*
Celestial Navigation for Yachtsmen, Mary Blewitz
The Boater's Bowditch,
Navigation and Plotting, Dutton

Other Sources: Celestial Navigation seminars offered through Cal Adventures

4. Project Process & Timeline

Weeks	Process	Meeting Schedule & Outcomes
1-3	Develop project outline Find potential sources Write Honors Proposal	<i>At least 2 meetings with Prof. Boisvert</i> PROPOSAL TURNED IN TO HONORS BOARD BY SEPTEMBER 10 th
4-7	Begin research Take 2-day seminar	<i>Meetings every other Thursday with Prof. Boisvert</i> PRACTICE 1-HOUR JOURNEY BY OCT 6
8-11	Take advanced seminar	<i>Meetings every other Thursday</i> PRACTICE 2-HOUR JOURNEY BY NOV 3
12-14	Plot out SF-Monterey trip	<i>Meetings every other Thursday</i> FINAL PLANS TO PROF. BOISVERT BY NOV. 24
15	Do the journey !	TRIP DONE BY DECEMBER 1
16	Prepare Presentation	<i>Meet with Prof. Boisvert as a "test run"</i>
17	Give Presentation to class Turn in Journal	PRESENTATION & JOURNAL COMPLETED BY DEC. 6



Honors Contract Proposal

1. Project Goal, Objectives and Thesis:

Goal: The goal of my project is to analyze the motivation for and effects of the infamous firing of General Douglas MacArthur by President Harry Truman.

Driving Question: Why was General MacArthur fired by President Truman and what are the results of this act?

Working Thesis: My current thesis is that if MacArthur had not disobeyed Truman's orders, then Japan would not have gotten the opportunity to build its economy, now known as the second richest in the world.

2. Project Outcomes: The outcome of this project will be a 15-20 page paper which will be turned in no later than the final exam of the course. I will also give a 30 minute presentation of my work before my class during the last week of class.

3. Paper Outline:

I. Bibliography & Analysis of President Truman

- Personal Background
- Civilian & Military work experience
- Teddy Roosevelt & the Vice-Presidency
- Becoming President
- Analysis of his personality and political values

II. Bibliography & Analysis of General MacArthur

- Personal Background
- Civilian & Military work experience
- Analysis of his personality and political values

III. Background and Analysis of the firing

- Tensions leading up to the firing
- Conflict of two men's values and motives
- The firing & its aftermath
- Analysis of the "real" reasons behind firing and its global effects

4. Project Resource List

Films: *MacArthur, Truman, 1940'2-50's of the Century Collection at LMC*

Books: *Simply Truman*, David McCullough

The Wit and Wisdom of Harry Truman, Harry Truman & Ralph Keyes

Douglas MacArthur, Bernard Duffy

The Emperor General, Norman Finklestein

5. Project Process & Timeline

Weeks	Process	Meeting Schedule & Outcomes
1-3	Develop project outline Formulate thesis Find potential sources Write Honors Proposal	<i>At least 2 meetings with Prof. Kaiper.</i> PROPOSAL TURNED IN TO HONORS BOARD BY SEPTEMBER 10 th
4-8	Conduct research on Truman Write draft of part I	<i>Meetings every other Monday with Prof. Kaiper</i> DRAFT OF PART I OF PAPER BY OCT. 11
8-12	Conduct research on MacArthur Write draft of part II	<i>Meetings every other Monday with Prof. Kaiper</i> DRAFT OF PART II BY NOV. 8
12-16	Conduct research & analysis of firing Write final draft of all parts of paper	<i>Meetings every other Monday</i> FINAL DRAFT DUE DEC 6
17	Polish final paper with input from Prof. Kaiper Do Class Presentation	<i>Meeting after final exam with Prof. Kaiper to turn in paper & discuss</i> FINAL PAPER DUE DEC. 13