



Honors Contracts – Spring 2020

What are Honors Contracts?

Honors Contracts are projects Honors Students can undertake in any LMC college level course in which they are currently enrolled. If the student completes the Honors Contract, the accomplishment is noted on her/his transcript and counts towards Honors Program requirements. The Honors Contract project

- Relates to and supplements the regular course material at a more advanced level; and
- Should take about 25 extra hours. This includes all the time researching, writing and meeting with the professor.

What kinds of projects can be Honors Contracts?

Any project that relates to the subject area can be approved – creativity is encouraged! The kinds of projects that have been approved in the past include:

- Research Project/Papers
- Demonstration of an advanced skill
- Creative Work (painting, film etc.)
- Class Presentations
- Service/Community Based Learning Project

The main question the Honors Board asks itself when evaluating Honors Contract Proposals is how does this project supplement and advance the skills and knowledge of the course?

The Honors Contract Process

To do an Honors Contract, the student needs to develop a proposal which outlines the work to be done. This proposal must be signed by the professor to indicate their approval of the project and is submitted to the Honors Board which will conduct a thorough review. Here is the general process:

1. **Get approval from Director by Noon on Friday, February 7.**
2. Generate a basic idea
3. Approach Professor and begin honing idea in collaboration with the Honors Director
4. Develop Proposal Rough Draft – get input
5. Final Draft by DEADLINE – **Noon on Friday, February 21.**
6. Revise if necessary or get to work
7. Follow plan & complete project

Honors Board Review

- The Honors Advisory Board closely reads the Proposal and ranks it either “Approved”, “Approved with Minor Revision”, “Needs Revision” or “Not Approved”. The main criteria the Board uses to judge proposals by are:
- **Clarity:** Is it clear exactly WHAT the student proposes to do, HOW s/he is going to do it, what the OUTCOMES of the project will be, and what the TIMELINE for the project is?
- **Academic Relevance and Quality:** Does the project clearly relate to and supplement the content/skills of the course? Are the intellectual and academic demands of the project of sufficient caliber to merit Honors Credit?
- **Feasibility:** Is this project really do-able in the 25-hour time frame?

Tips for a Strong Proposal

- **Highest quality work.** No typos. Meet deadlines.
- **Make the basics clear**
 - WHAT will you do?
 - WHY are you doing this? What question are you trying to answer? What skill are you trying to develop?
 - What OUTCOME will there be to your project? What evidence will there be that the work has been completed. Quantify and give details!
 - What METHOD will you use?
 - What is the TIMELINE for your project? Break it down.
 - What RESOURCES have you already located that will assist you in this project
- **Choose an idea that is the right size**
- **Be sure the project relates to and supplements the course material.** It’s OK to be creative but remember to keep the focus on your academic goal!
- **Demonstrate that you have already thought about this and done your initial research.**
- **Avoid “book report” type projects.** This isn’t about regurgitating information, but rather synthesizing it, creating something new, or looking at things from a unique perspective.

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. (The grade in the course is based on the same assignments and criteria as all of the other, non-Honors students.) 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 the student must receive a “C” or better in the course to receive this Honors credit.

Can I drop my Honors Contract project or get an Incomplete?

Honors students may drop out of the Honors Contract obligation at any time during the semester, however if this occurs twice, the student’s membership in the Honors Transfer Program will be reviewed by the Honors Board. The Honors Contract MUST be completed before the end of the semester; there are no incompletes 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.