

Honors Course Contracts

Honors Course Contracts allow students in the University Honors Program to receive Honors credit for non-Honors courses. In essence, a student proposes to "contract" the course for Honors credit by proposing alternate or additional activities to those listed by the instructor in the course syllabus; these activities should allow the student to emulate the experience of an Honors course and should augment the course activities, not simply add to them. The proposed activities must be approved by the instructor and the University Honors Program and are copied to the instructor's department head. Honors credit is given at the end of the semester once the student has satisfactorily completed the activities described in the Honors Course Contract application. Honors credit will be applied to the student's transcript after final grades for the class have posted. See our section on [Teaching Honors Courses](#) for examples of projects that you might consider for your [Honors Course Contract](#).

There are two main questions that need to be answered for an Honors Course Contract:

1. How will your plan of study differ from what is on the regular syllabus?
2. What will be your basis for a grade?

We do track students who repeatedly fail to complete contract requirements and may not approve future contracts since wasting faculty time and energy jeopardizes the opportunity for all students.

Plan of Study

Honors-caliber study is not simply doing more work or more difficult work; instead, Honors study should expect higher-order or more complex work. In order to approve your contract, we need to see that your plan of study provides a more complex experience than what is described in the non-Honors syllabus. See our section on [Teaching Honors Courses](#) for examples.

Basis for Grade

This section should clearly explain if and how your Honors Course Contract work will affect the grading policy described in the non-Honors syllabus. This requirement gives us a way to help address any disputes that might arise later. There is a range of possibilities, as shown in the examples below:

- My Honors contract will not affect my course grade. If I do not complete the Honors contract work, I will not receive Honors credit.
- My Honors contract work will count for 20% of my course grade, with the other grade categories reduced proportionally.
- The Honors versions of my class assignments will be weighted the same as described in the syllabus but will be evaluated with a higher standard as described in my plan of study.

Applications for Honors Course Contracts are due by the 20th class day of the semester. For complete instructions, refer to the [Honors Course Contract application](#).

Please note that not all classes are available for contract. Some reasons why the course may not show up as available for a contract in the LAUNCH Portal include:

1. The course is already offered as an Honors section.
2. There is not an instructor assigned to the course in Howdy. If this is the case, please contact the department offering the course to ask that Howdy be updated.
3. The course is excluded by request of the department.

Honors Course Contracts are open between preregistration and the 20th class day of the semester in which you intend to earn Honors credit. When you login, the workflow will automatically populate with any courses eligible to be contracted for Honors credit.

Select the course you want to contract (one at a time) from the drop-down list. Check the box if you plan to graduate this semester.

The next question helps us determine how your experience will differ from the non-honors version of the course. Honors experiences should be measurably broader, deeper, or more complex.

Because expectations are different for an Honors experience than for the non-Honors version of the course, you should understand if/how these different expectations translate to your grade.

Once your application is complete, push submit to route the request to your professor for approval. The workflow will automatically email the approval request to the instructor of record for the course you selected. A course without an instructor listed will not be eligible for an Honors Contract.