



Dear Faculty Member,

The Honors College wants to thank you for agreeing to do an Honors contract.

Contract courses are central to Honors education at UT Arlington, and students typically use them to earn the bulk of the hours towards their Honors degree. Contract courses are intended to provide added value to regular coursework and to prepare students for the Honors senior project. The senior project is an extended research effort or creative activity that includes a substantive written component and an oral presentation, so Honors contracts will ideally be tailored to help students develop skills in research, writing, and public speaking.

Honors contracts vary by major and course, and faculty have latitude in determining the nature of that work. The common denominators are that the contract requires significant added effort, and that it be directed to skills that will be useful for the senior project. Students doing a contract will be expected take all exams and complete other work for the course. The contract should not affect the student's final grade in the course, just whether he or she receives Honors credit in it.

Here are some typical assignments:

- An extra paper of 8-10 pages with a research component
- Expansion of an assigned essay to 12-15 pages, with a research component
- Completion of chapters and problem sets not covered in the class
- Research and 15-20 minute presentation on a topic not covered in class
- An extra studio project, or a more extensively researched project

These suggestions are not intended to be exhaustive, and we encourage faculty to develop innovative projects that will enhance student understanding of the course material or academic field more generally. We do ask that projects be substantive and that the requirements for earning Honors credit be specified on the contract at the beginning of the semester.

You will be asked to sign the contract twice—once at the beginning of the semester, then again after the work has been completed.

Students should submit projects directly to you one to two weeks before to the final contract due date, which is the last day of class before final exams. The student is responsible for reminding you of all deadlines.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Honors Advisor Bobbie Brown ([bbrown@uta.edu](mailto:bbrown@uta.edu)).

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Gustafson  
Associate Dean of Honors for Academic Affairs