Honors College Credit Contract Guidelines

Contract courses are central to Honors education at UT Arlington, and students typically use them to earn the bulk of the hours/points towards their Honors degree. Contract courses are intended to provide added value to regular coursework and to prepare students for the Honors Capstone project. The Capstone is an extended research effort or creative activity that includes a substantive written component and an oral or poster 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 Capstone and the student’s long-term success. Students completing 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 class, just whether he or she receives Honors credit in it.

Some typical assignments include:

- 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 class 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 as a student advances into upper-level coursework, so should the requirements of their contracts for earning Honors credit. This could include longer papers, more complex problems or projects, and/or presentation requirements. The increased rigor is representative of a higher level of expectation for upper-level students.

You will be asked to sign the contract twice—once at the beginning of the semester with the requirements for earning Honors credit specified, then again after the work has been completed.

Students should submit completed projects directly to you one to two weeks before 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 Ms. Bobbie Brown (bbrown@uta.edu).