

University Honors Program

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Contract for Honors Credit

Introduction:

An **honors contract** is the agreement between a student who is enrolled in the University Honors Program and a professor that defines the terms whereby the student will complete an enhanced and enriched requirement for an existing course. The student will receive honors credit for the completion of the contracted requirements and will benefit from the opportunity to experience more responsibility, more student/instructor interaction and a more in depth study of the course material. The honors contract defines and formalizes the method and means of this enhanced opportunity.

To the Honors Student:

The initiation of an honors contract is the responsibility of the student. Ideally, contact should be made with the instructor during the semester previous to the semester for the requested course. You should choose an instructor whose work interests you and with whom you would like to pursue a more in-depth academic experience. You may also choose a course based on subject matter alone.

You should discuss your interests with the instructor and define the work that will be included in the honors contract. It is important to remember that even though more work is a part of the honors component, **more** alone does not fulfill the requirement. The emphasis is on **quality, breadth and depth** of work. For example, extra readings alone are not enough but need to lead to a more in-depth discussion or more substantive or original paper or project. After you and your professor agree on the requirements of the honors course, the honors contract must be completed.



Once approved by the faculty member and Departmental Chair, the honors contract must be submitted to the University Honors Program by the end of the second week of the semester for approval.

To the Honors Instructor:

Even though students are encouraged to initiate the honors course process, instructors are encouraged to be aware of honors students and to encourage promising students to pursue honors courses and the honors contract process. Individual dialogue with the university's brightest and most motivated students can benefit faculty as well as the student. The satisfaction of mentoring, the establishment of relationships with future leaders, and the opportunity to teach on a higher level are reasons for encouraging this process.

When a student requests the development of an honors contract with you, you should discuss the possibilities and formulate an enhanced curriculum that offers a qualitatively more demanding experience. The actual requirements will vary but must be approved by the department and by the University Honors Program. Please familiarize yourself with the honors contract form and approval process.



Questions about the honors contract and process and examples of honors contracts are available from Lori Merrill-Fink, University Honors Program, Morris Library, Room 110, 605 Agriculture Drive, Mail Code 6532, Carbondale, IL 62901.

618 453 2824 fax: 618 453 2831

Website: www.siu.edu/~honors

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Form must be submitted to the UHP office by no later than the end of the second week of classes. Note: Students have the option to drop the University course, and add the Disciplinary Honors Course (in which case the academic unit recognizes this as an equivalent), OR to remain enrolled in the University course. This decision should be based on how the student would like the course to appear on his/her transcript.

Once the contract is approved, the student should pick up a Restricted Entry Card from the UHP office.

University Course: _____ Semester/Year: _____

OR

Honors Contract Course: _____ UHON 150 Disciplinary Honors I
 _____ UHON 250 Disciplinary Honors II
 _____ UHON 350 Disciplinary Honors III
 _____ UHON 450 Disciplinary Honors IV

[Note: if the course is 200-level, then UHON 250 should be checked, and so on.]

Student Name: _____ I.D. No. _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Instructor Name: _____ Email: _____

Please answer the following questions completely and in detail. You may attach additional materials to clarify your answers.

1. Why do you want to take this course via an honors contract?
2. Describe the work to be completed that will make this course an honors course. How does this work differ from the regular course work? Please emphasize the specifics and how this work relates to your academic goals.
3. Describe how you will be evaluated on this work. (A grade of B or above must be earned for the course to be considered for honors credit).

Attach your responses and supporting materials to this form before submission

Signatures:

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructor: _____ Date : _____

Department Chair/Director: _____ Date: _____

Submit to:

Lori Merrill-Fink, University Honors Program, University Honors Program, Morris Library, Room 110,
605 Agriculture Drive, Mail Code 6532, Carbondale, IL 62901.

To be completed by UHP Office

University Honors Program Director: _____

Date: _____

Course and Section Number: _____