

THE HONORS CONTRACT MODEL

Meaningful Honors contracts result when proactive students work with a professor of a course to find ways to deepen or extend learning within a course by extending a course assignment or activity or adding an assignment or other product to the class. An Honors contract should represent approximately 15 hours of work beyond regular course requirements (or about one hour/week of a 15-week semester).

Student Role

Review the guidelines for Honors contracts on the University Honors Program website and the online proposal form (to know what should be submitted).

Identify a course in which you would like to deepen your understanding or explore related topics.

Review course syllabus and calendar and brainstorm ideas for a project that would be meaningful to you based on your interests and goals.

Thoughtfully consider and research different possibilities until you have decided on two or three potential topics for your Honors Contract.

Set up a meeting with your faculty member and discuss potential ideas for the contract. Be open to changes as suggested by the faculty member.

Decide on a specific topic and product (which may be an extension or addition to a course assignment).

Fill out the online form.

Meet with the instructor throughout the semester to seek feedback and guidance, as well as to communicate progress to date.

Submit final product/evidence of Honors contract completion to the course instructor.

Faculty Role

Negotiate with the student what topic and product might be meaningful in helping the student explore course topics or deepen their understanding of course topics.

Contact honors@kennesaw.edu with any questions.

Be available to meet with the students as needed to serve as a resource and to provide feedback or guidance.

Review the student's final product.

An email will be sent at the end of the semester with a link asking for feedback on the completion and quality of the agreed-upon product. You will also be asked whether the student earned a "C" or better in the course, which is necessary for the Honors contract to count.

THE HONORS CONTRACT MODEL

How to Initiate an Honors Contract Conversation with your Professor

Taking a Single Topic Further

"I reviewed the syllabus and see we are spending **(number)** classes on **(course topic)**. I am very interested in this topic and would like to complete an Honors Contract to explore it further."

or

"I see on the department website (or google) that your research is on **(something related to course topic)**. I'd like to learn more about that and would like to complete an Honors Contract to explore it further."

- If you had the time in class and could explore this topic further, what would you do?
- What additional resources would you use? What are the names of researchers on this subject that I should look for?
- Would you be willing to help me develop a plan?

Proposing Interdisciplinary Learning

"I see in the syllabus we are studying **(course topic)**. I am very interested in learning more about how **(course topic)** relates to **(additional topic)** by completing an Honors Contract."

- Are you aware of research that has already been done connecting these two topics?
- In what ways could I connect these two topics that could help me understand both more deeply?

Connecting an Interest to a Course Topic to Enrich Learning

"I am interested in **(topic)**. I would like to connect **(course topic)** with this interest by pursuing an Honors Contract. Would you be willing to work with me to focus this idea?"

Applying a Talent to Demonstrate Mastery of a Topic

"One of my talents is **(talent)**. I would like to connect **(course topic)** with my talent by completing an Honors Contract. Would you be willing to collaborate with me?"

Products:

The product of the Honors contract may involve the extension of a course assignment or project or the addition of an assignment or project.

Many different kinds of products are acceptable to the Honors College, depending on the nature of the course, your goals, and the instructor's preferences. Some possibilities include

- blog
- blueprint
- brochure
- choreography
- computer code
- critical paper
- debate
- demonstration
- editorial
- infographic or other approved design project
- journal
- lesson plan/unit
- multimedia product
- musical composition
- oral report
- podcast
- portfolio
- position paper
- speech
- synthesis of research
- TED talk
- timeline
- website
- video
- set design