

Honors-By-Contract Guidelines

Honors-By-Contract provides students a way to earn honors credit for a 300 or 400 level course that does not offer an honors section, by completing distinct requirements that enable them to engage with the course content on a deeper level.

The Honors-By-Contract Application is completed in collaboration between the student and course instructor to detail the requirements of the honors contract agreed upon by both parties. At the end of the term, the Honors-By-Contract Completion Form is submitted to confirm the student's completion of the contract requirements.

Specific contract requirements vary widely depending on the course subject matter. While most contracts do require students to complete additional work for a course, the focus of the contract should be how to enable a student to *learn* more, not just *do* more.

When submitting an Honors-By-Contract Application, instructors should provide specific details on the requirements of the contract. The most common reason we do not approve a contract is *lack of detail*.

When developing the requirements for an honors contract, we recommend instructors consider:

- Ways the student can engage in independent critical thinking
- Ways the student can explore content beyond what the regular syllabus requires
- Ways the student and instructor can enjoy meaningful interactions beyond the regular class meetings (e.g., regular meetings outside of class time)
- Ways the student can perform at a more advanced level than the standard syllabus requires
- Ways the student can communicate what they've learned to their peers or other audiences

Examples of past successful honors contracts include requirements such as:

- Independent research by the student that focuses on a topic related to the course subject but not covered in the regular class
- The student completes what would normally be a group project as a solo endeavor
- Independent project that involves the student engaging with industry or community leaders outside of class time
- The student completes a more in-depth version of a class paper, e.g., with a combination of additional sources, use of primary text, greater length requirement
- In a course cross listed for UG and GR credit, the student completes the same requirements as the graduate students
- In an experiential course, the student is required to complete periodic reflections and/or present on the experience after completion
- The student attends departmental lecture series and/or reads journal articles over course of semester and submits short response papers

HONORS-BY-CONTRACT APPLICATION

Student Name	_____	Instructor Name	_____
SID	_____	Instructor Rank	_____
UTK Email	_____	Department	_____
Major	_____	UTK Email	_____
Course Title	_____		
Course Dept & No.	_____		
Semester & Year	_____		
Credit Hours	_____		

Honors-By-Contract Guidelines

- No 100-200 level courses are allowed to utilize this option.
- Contracts are not allowed for courses that already have honors equivalent courses.
- Contract requirements should be specific, relevant, and measurable.
- Required meetings between student and instructor should be included in all contracts.
- Honors credit will ONLY be conferred upon successful completion of the approved contract.
- Beginning with the 2016 CHP cohort, students may only use one approved HBC course towards CHP requirements. University Honors will determine which Broadened Perspective category the course fulfills.

STUDENT: Provide rationale for why you wish to undertake an honors contract with this course as opposed to a regular honors course. Further, how will this HBC fit with your overall academic plan?

INSTRUCTOR: In brief, how will this student's experience differ from that of non-honors students in the course?

INSTRUCTOR: Please provide a detailed description of the honors contract, including the desired outcomes for the student. Attachments are allowed if more room is needed.

INSTRUCTOR: How will the course grade be affected by the honors contract?

HBC application AND a copy of the course syllabus are due by the end of the third week of the semester. All HBC materials should be submitted to University Honors at honors@utk.edu or 201 STUDENT UNION, Once approved, both student and instructor will be notified. A signed [Completion Form](#) is due by the grade deadline in order to earn honors credit.

Student Signature and Date

Instructor Signature and Date

Recorded By (Univ Honors Staff and Date)