



Honors Contracting – Purpose and General Guidelines

Contract courses are central to Honors education at UT Arlington, and students typically use them to earn the bulk of their Honors hours or course points toward completing their Honors degree. The intention of contracting courses is to provide additional value to regular coursework and to prepare students for the Honors Capstone.

Honors contracts vary by major and course, and faculty help determine the nature of that work. Essentially, the contract requires significant added effort in addition to the regular coursework of the class. The contract should not affect the student's final grade in the course, just whether they receive Honors credit in it.

Typical contract requirements might include an extra paper with a research component, an expansion of an assigned essay with a research component, completion of chapters and problem sets not covered in the class, research and a presentation on a topic not covered in class, an extra studio project, or a more extensively researched project.

The Honors College staff reviews all contracts for both rigor and academic relevance. When reviewing the contracts, we consider both the subject and class-level, the requirements of each individual contract, as well as comparing sections of the same course within the same discipline to ensure equity among students contracting for Honors credit. As a student advances in their coursework, so should the level of rigor of their Honors contracts.

As a general rule-of-thumb, requirements for stand-alone research papers by classification often include:

- freshman-level papers are typically 5-7pgs,
- sophomore papers are 6-8pgs,
- junior-level papers are 8-10pgs, and
- senior-level papers are typically 10-12pgs.
- students are also generally required to give class presentations of their research papers, which typically last 5-20 minutes, dependent upon the class level and topic of the course.

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.

Faculty will be asked to sign the contract twice—once at the beginning of the semester, then again after the work has been completed. This can be done by going directly to www.uta.edu/honors/credit.

Students should submit projects directly to their instructor 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 their instructor of all deadlines.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bobbie Brown (bbrown@uta.edu) directly.