

Honors Course Contracting: A Brief Overview for Faculty

What is an Honors Contract?

An Honors Contract is a **student-initiated agreement** between you and a University Honors Program (UHP) student to provide additional, honors-level coursework beyond your regular course requirements. This allows students to earn honors credit for courses that aren't designated honors sections.

Your Role as Faculty

The contract process is designed to be **collaborative and flexible**. You work with the student to develop meaningful coursework that demonstrates deeper engagement with your course material. The additional work should connect meaningfully to your course content but goes beyond what's required of other students. The Honors contract work should reasonably take about 1 hr/week (~15 hrs total) for a 3 credit course.

Common Contract Activities

Past contracts have included diverse approaches such as:

- Independent research projects related to course topics
- Creating educational materials or demonstrations for outreach
- Lab work or field experience with faculty research
- Advanced analysis equivalent to graduate-level expectations
- Service learning or community engagement projects

Timeline and Requirements

- The Honors contract work should reasonably take about **1 hr/week (~15 hrs total) for a 3 credit course**.
- Students must approach you and submit contracts **within the first two weeks** of the semester. Extensions may be granted, but the student must email an extension request to the Honors Director, Dr. Sarah Robey, sarahrobey@isu.edu.
- Students provide templates and checklists to guide the process
- The Honors Program Director reviews and approves all contracts

- You evaluate the honors work using the same grading timeline as your regular course
- **No incompletes** are permitted without prior approval from the Honors Director

Important Notes

- Students must still complete **all regular course requirements**
- The honors work is **in addition to**, not instead of, regular coursework
- Your final grade should reflect the quality of all their work, including the contracted work
- The process is student-driven—you're not expected to initiate or design everything, but rather to assist and guide.
- You may re-use contracted projects in your course.

This system gives motivated students deeper learning opportunities while allowing you flexibility in how that's achieved within your expertise and course structure.