

The Honors Transfer Program of Skyline College

HONORS CONTRACT

An Honors Contract Course offers a method whereby honors students can receive credit for a course not designated as honors. It is intended for use by students seeking to complete the 15 unit requirement for the Honors Transfer Program completion. Under the Contract Course option, the student and the instructor in consultation with the Honors Coordinator will submit this completed packet verifying that the student has completed all components of the honors contract. The contract is voluntary on the part of the instructor, but necessary on the part of the student as contracts are currently the only method for students to earn honors credit. Once agreed upon by the instructor, the student, and the Honors Coordinator, it is expected that the student fulfill the obligations stated within the contract, and upon the completion the student will submit this completed packet verifying that the student has completed all components. The advantages of doing an honors contract are 1) The student is not limited to program designated courses, 2) A contract provides the opportunity for the student to engage material in depth, 3) Contracts are “low stakes” for students who want to attempt to do honors coursework.

Examples of what the Honors Contract Course might entail:

1. A written product, appropriate to the discipline, with multiple revisions guided by the instructor of the course. The project could substitute for one of the regular course assignments and should reflect a higher level of understanding of the material and extra effort on the part of the student. The final draft should be of outstanding quality.
2. Additional readings of a different type and/or higher technical level from that required of the course. The student should demonstrate an understanding of these readings through a class presentation, an oral examination by the instructor, or a formal paper.
3. Individual research appropriate to the discipline. This may involve more laboratory and/or library work than required of other students in the course. At the end of the semester the research findings should be presented as a paper of superior quality or as a presentation to the class, or at a recognized conference or student research showcase such as the Bay Honors Research Symposium (held the first weekend in May), on campus poster sessions, and/or in an Honors Research Seminar (forthcoming).
4. For courses in the creative or performing arts, class presentations and/or prepared portfolios may be presented, and should be judged by appropriate professional standards.
5. Any mutually acceptable project which examines the course material in broader and deeper perspectives than is expected of other students.

Honors Contract Course – General Guidelines

1. Honors work implies a deeper understanding of the material. A student must therefore receive at least a grade of “B” in the regular course work to earn satisfactory completion of the contracted work. However, honors credit should not be awarded simply for superior performance on the regular course assignments.
2. To add the Honors component to the course, the student may be asked to complete more involved, in depth, wider breadth of study. However, the student will not earn additional credit hours for this work. Therefore, qualitative differences, such as alternate testing, substituting experiential learning assignments for incremental testing assignments, doing independent research on an appropriate topic, are preferable to a quantitative requirement, such as writing an additional paper.
3. The contract is between the honors student and the instructor and should be created and completed by them. A copy of the contract must be submitted to the Honors Transfer Program Coordinator no later than the census date at the beginning of the semester.
4. Honors Contract Courses should be established for UC or CSU transferable courses.

Honors Contract Course – Specific Guidelines

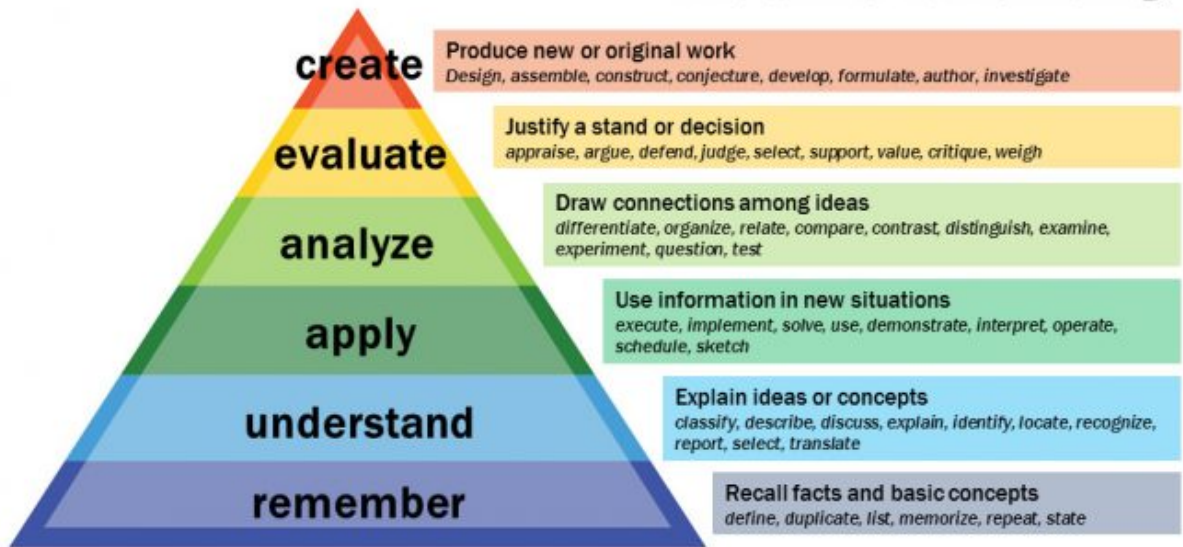
1. Contract must include specific deadlines, benchmarks, and consultations dates with the instructor.
2. Contract must be research-oriented
3. Contract must include a research question to be answered
4. Contract should include well-stated methodology
5. Contract should include a final product, i.e. a presentation
6. Contract should articulate relevancy, including general, cultural, and personal

What an Honors Contract is NOT

1. An extra paper
2. An extra problem set
3. A summary
4. "Busy" work

In short, an Honors Contract should not resemble extra credit in any way, shape, nor form. When preparing the contract, please keep Bloom's Taxonomy in mind, and try to construct the components of your contract with the higher ordered thinking in mind.

Bloom's Taxonomy



 Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching

Honors Contract Procedural Steps Flow Chart



Honors Contract Timeline/Benchmarks

To be completed by: **Student Name**

Deadline: **To be 100% completed on or before the Last Day of Instruction**

Honors Contract

% done	Phase	Due By	Instructor's Signature
	Meet with Instructor for initial consultation	End of Week 2	
	Finalize topic and methodology	End of Week 4	
	Begin Researching	Ongoing	
	Check in with Honors Coordinator for Contract approval	End of Week 5	
	Consultation with Instructor 1		
	Consultation with Instructor 2		
	Consultation with Instructor 3		
	Consultation with Instructor 4		
	Check in with Honors Coordinator regarding Contract progress	End of Week 10	
	Signed and Completed Contract Submitted to Honors Coordinator	Last Day of Instruction	