

## Honors Option Contract Guide for Faculty

*The Honors Option is designed to enable students to take courses not designated as Honors.*

- You may have encountered a student who has approached you requesting an Honors Option Contract for one of your courses. This guide addresses any concerns or questions you may have about the process.

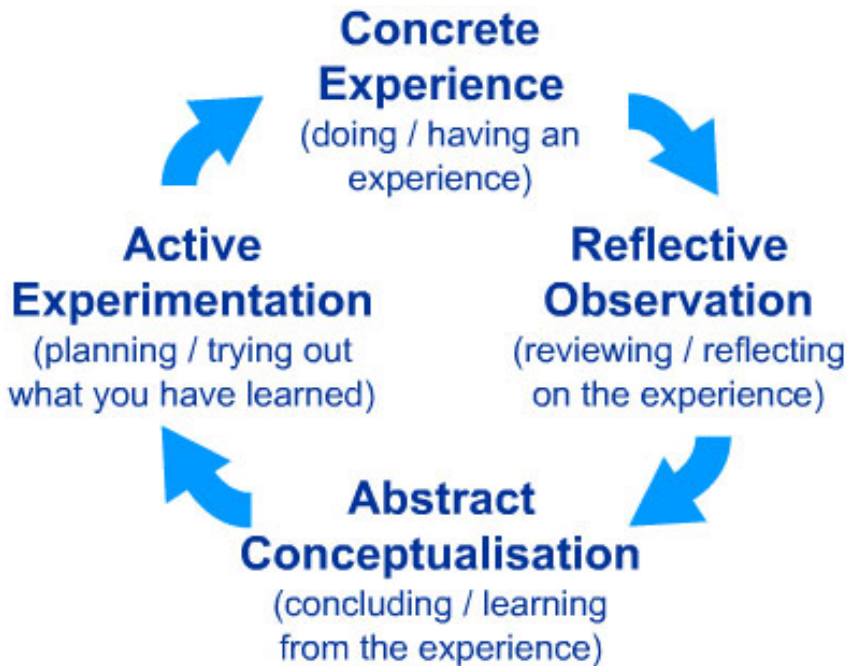
### ***Rationale for an Honors Contract***

*It is important to stress that the Honors Option Contract is about quality not quantity of work. The important distinction of an Honors course is that it is an enhanced experience generally completed outside of the regular class setting.*

- An important part of the Honors experience is faculty mentoring of exceptional students. The Honors Option requires a commitment from a faculty member to provide some additional time to build this relationship.
- The relationship is built around an enhanced understanding of the discipline and knowledge of the scholarship for a particular field of study. Any successful Honors experience must connect to the generation of scholarship, interdisciplinarity, leadership and/or service learning.
- The activities of an Honors Option Contract must align with the educational outcomes of the Honors College. In particular, research projects, creative activities, or service learning initiatives are examples of worthwhile experiences.
- Honors Option Contract activities should also strive to generate materials suitable for submission to undergraduate research symposia and conferences. These projects serve as exceptional work above and beyond the course content.

### ***Kolb's Learning Cycle***

Kolb (1984) states, "Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience". Honors activities relate to Kolb's theory of experiential learning. His four stage learning cycle designates the progress of each successful learning experience. An understanding of Kolb's theory is useful in planning activities/assignments with an Honors student.



**1. Concrete Experience** - (a new experience of situation is encountered, or a reinterpretation of existing experience).

**2. Reflective Observation** (of the new experience. Of particular importance are any inconsistencies between experience and understanding).

**3. Abstract Conceptualization** (Reflection gives rise to a new idea, or a modification of an existing abstract concept).

**4. Active Experimentation** (the learner applies them to the world around them to see what results).

### ***Timeline***

- Students are responsible for initiating the Honors Option Contract process. It is recommended that the discussion begin with their academic advisor or the department Honors advisor and then the faculty member teaching the course. As a note, Core sections are not accepted as Honors Options. The Honors Option Contract enables students to take Honors classes in the major.
- After an initial meeting, students are responsible for clearly documenting the activity and how it relates to Honors scholarship, interdisciplinarity, leadership, and/or service learning.
- When the instructor and student have agreed on the terms and deadlines, the online form should be completed and submitted to the Honors College.

- Upon receiving the form, the contract will be approved, sent back for revisions, or rejected.
- Approved contracts will be sent back to the student and instructor.
- All specified work for the contract must be completed and evaluated by the instructor two weeks before the end of the semester. It is the students' responsibility to submit evaluated work to the Honors College. This work is expected two weeks before the end of the semester.
- Upon approval of the work and a satisfactory grade of a B or better for the class, the course will be designated as Honors on the student transcript.

### ***Faculty Responsibilities***

- As noted, the greatest responsibility of the faculty member is the commitment and time necessary to mentor the student. The direct relationship on an Honors activity is one of the greatest benefits of being in the Honors College.
- Outside of the initial meeting with the student, the faculty member and student should coordinate a schedule for necessary meetings and evaluations.
- Upon completion of the project or activity, the faculty member must provide an evaluation of acceptable or unsatisfactory. The student is expected to deliver the materials to the Honors College.

### ***Sample Submissions***

#### ***(Approved Honors Option Contracts submitted by students)***

##### *Honors Activity Project Description:*

*I will be conducting a one way 2x2 factorial ANOVA with a minimum of 80 participants. I will then present my results at the undergraduate symposium along with a poster of the experiment (APA style) as a visual aid.*

##### *Honors Activity Project Description:*

*Develop a website or blog including activities for the listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills for each one of the chapters covered in SPAN 1002. Have a specific class presentation of the first chapter to show students what has been done on Feb. 17. At the end of each other chapter provide the activities and updates to the website depending on the chapter covered following the dates of the chapters test. See Appendix I for dates. Some of the activities will include short videos, interviews, and writing.*

##### *Honors Activity Project Description:*

*Give a PowerPoint presentation on a chapter from the Taking Sides textbook and write an 8-10 page paper with six or more sources.*

*Honors Activity Project Description:*

*In conjunction with a service-learning project in the lab section of the class, as an honors student I will read and incorporate several additional academic sources, provided by the instructor. In addition I will take all practice quizzes as actual credit quizzes instead.*

*Honors Activity Project Description:*

*Critically analyze the advanced chapter on panel data techniques and compound data to solve exercises at the end of the chapter.*

*Honors Activity Project Description:*

*Research project exploring the roles and perceptions of Speech Language Pathologists assigned to schools compared to Speech Language Pathologists assigned to hospitals.*

*Honors Activity Project Description:*

*I will be assisting in a directed study with Dr. X in which I will help develop and create marketing ideas, strategies, and material for LCOBA study abroad program.*