



Honors Contract Information

What is an honors contract?

An honors contract is an agreement made between an instructor and a student who is participating in the Transfer Honors Program (THP). The participating instructor will create a research paper, course projects, and additional assignments and/or responsibilities in addition to the course requirements of the non-honors version of the course (must be CSU and/or UC transferable).

In addition to fulfilling the additional requirements, completion of an “A” or “B” grade in the course will result in the student earning honors credit for the course. This class credit is noted on official transcripts and contributes to the completion of the Transfer Honors Program, which can result in priority consideration to four-year colleges and universities.

What are the benefits of completing a course for honors credit?

- Great depth of knowledge of the course and subject.
- Increased academic skill set (research, laboratory work, leadership, etc.).
- Increased contact with participating faculty, which may result in a supportive letter of recommendation.
- Opportunity to present and publish work on campus through Honors Transfer Council of California or other avenues.
- Completion of the THP program, which can result in priority consideration for transfer to Public, Private and out of state universities.

How do I initiate an honors contract?

Students must be approved members of the WLAC THP. Students should meet with the instructor and ask if they are willing to offer the course for honors credit. Once the instructor and student agree to the course terms, the student will download an Honors Contract from the THP Canvas site (it is a fillable PDF) and secure an appointment with their instructor to complete the contract. Upon completion, the student will email the honors contract to the THP office. The contracts are due by the end of week 6 during the Fall and Spring semesters and at the end of week 1 for Summer, Winter and other compressed sessions (8-week sessions). There are no exceptions to the noted contract deadlines.

Instructors will receive an email from our office verifying receipt of the contract and its approved status. Instructors will also receive two copies of the contract in their mailboxes (or email inbox for online instructors). One copy is for the instructor and one copy is for the student. Upon completion of the class, the instructor will receive an email from our office verifying that the student has earned an “A” or “B” grade in the course and has satisfactorily completed the honors component of the course. Once this is verified, our office will contact Admissions and Records, and the honors course credit will be noted on official transcripts.

How much additional work should be expected to earn honors credit? What kinds of assignments and/or responsibilities are appropriate?

Students should expect to complete 25-30% additional coursework in order to fulfill the credit in the honors class. Instructors are expected to require students to complete the outlined coursework already established in addition to the assigned honors work to earn honors credit. Below are some suggestions of appropriate additional assignments and/or student responsibilities:

- Higher degree of student participation and involvement in the class.
- Higher standards of performance than expected in the outlined coursework.

- More advanced supplemental reading, especially from primary sources.
- More opportunities for writing, and at a higher standard.
- More opportunities for student presentations to the class or to campus audiences.
- Greater enhancement of skills in critical thinking, analysis and interpretation of course material.
- Greater depth and/or breadth of subject matter investigation, especially requiring synthesis of different points of view.
- More opportunities for student-conceived research.
- Use of resources or consultants from beyond the campus, such as university libraries, interactions with business leaders and so forth.
- Opportunities for publication or public presentation of work.
- Integration of ideas from a variety of sources, particularly in cross- or interdisciplinary contexts.
- Community-based experiences: field trips, interviews, cultural events, service, etc.
- Leadership in the classroom: leading study groups, class discussion, and assisting instructors in preparation and delivery of instructional material.
- Required appointments throughout the semester.
- Annotated bibliographies.

For more information about the Transfer Honors Program, you can email us at transferhonors@wlac.edu or visit our website at <http://www.wlac.edu/TransferPrograms/Transfer-Honors-Program.aspx>