

Honors College

Dear Faculty Member,

The Honors College would like to thank you for agreeing to do an Honors contract.

Contract courses are very important to Honors education at NAU, and students typically use them to work on projects of interest and to earn required Honors units towards their degree. Contract courses are intended to provide added value to regular coursework and are reserved for courses at the 300 level and above. Ideally, Honors contracts will be tailored to help students develop skills in research, writing, and/or public speaking.

Honors contracts vary by major and course, and faculty have latitude in determining the nature of that work. The common denominators are that the contract requires significant added effort and that it is directed to skills that will be useful in the course. Students doing a contract will be expected to take all exams and complete other work for the course. Here are some typical assignments:

- An original project relating to course content or instructor interest
- Change a course assignment to include a presentation component
- Attend applicable events or experiences that enhance understanding of coursework
- An extra paper of 8-10 pages with a research component
- Expansion of an assigned essay to include additional required pages with a research component
- Completion of chapters and problem sets not covered in the class

These suggestions are not intended to be exhaustive, and we encourage faculty to help students develop innovative projects that will enhance student understanding of course material or of their 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.

Students should submit projects directly to you one to two weeks before the end of the course. The student is responsible for reminding you of all deadlines.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Kevin.Gustafson@nau.edu.

Thank you again for your dedication towards student success!

Sincerely yours,



Kevin Gustafson
Dean, NAU Honors College