

**The Three Rivers College Honors Program:  
*An Invitation to Academic Excellence***

**HONORS CONTRACTS**

Students participating in the Honors Program can complete Honors contracts within their scheduled college-level courses with the approval and participation of the course instructor. Honors contracts allow the student to engage in additional enhanced research, learning, and presentation activities over and above the scheduled course content and at an advanced level of achievement.

**FORMAT AND MEDIA**

The spirit of the Honors Program allows students to pursue their academic interests and professional goals in unique and innovative ways. Instructors are encouraged to allow students to select their own mode and method of contract completion as appropriate to both the course and discipline. A personal conference with Honors students is necessary to help define and determine what they will choose for their project.

Media of presentation should be flexible in a similar manner, allowing not only for traditional academic work such as written essays but also for oral presentations, multi-media productions, video presentations, fine arts demonstrations, experimental research, field study, and anything else that fits within the spirit of the course and discipline.

Instructors are also encouraged to allow multidisciplinary approaches to completion of the Honors contract. For example, an Honors student in Advanced College Writing could create a YouTube video advising fellow students how to properly evaluate credibility in online sources. As another example, an Anatomy & Physiology student with artistic ability could present a sketchbook containing original artwork of anatomical designs and diagrams. The Honors Program is designed to allow for imagination and creativity at every level.

**PATHWAYS**

**Portfolio**

Completion of an Honors contract portfolio requires the student to submit at least one additional assignment per week that helps to complete the purpose of the contract. The instructor should provide feedback for revision and direction in a timely manner throughout the term. At the end of the semester, all submissions will be collected and presented to the instructor for final portfolio review, at which time acceptable submissions will be granted Honors contract credit.

The portfolio pathway should include a minimum of ten submissions, and each submission, regardless of format or media, should represent 1-2 hours of additional work by the student. Instructors and students should agree on the format and media of presentations as appropriate to the discipline.

**Project**

Completion of an Honors contract project requires the student to submit an end-of-semester research project to complete the purpose of the contract. The instructor should touch base with the Honors student throughout the term to monitor progress and offer suggestions. At the end of the semester, the instructor will review the completed project, at which time acceptable submissions will be granted Honors contract credit.

The project pathway can be completed using any agreed-upon format or media, and the total project should represent 15-20 hours of additional work by the student over the course of the term. Instructors and students should agree on the format and media of presentations as appropriate to the discipline.

**COMPLETION**

An Honors contract will begin at the outset of the semester with a form completed by the instructor in consultation with the Honors student. A copy of that form will be submitted to the Honor Program director for record-keeping. At the end of the semester, when the instructor certifies that the student has fulfilled the Honors contract, the completed form will be sent to the Honors Program director, who will record the credit for that student.

Honors contract credits correspond to the credit hours awarded for successful completion of the course; i.e., a three-credit-hour course completed with an Honors contract will confer three hours of Honors contract credit toward the student's progress toward Honors Graduate Distinction.