

University of Delaware Honors Program Individual Honors Contract

Individual Honors Contracts enable enriched exploration of material in advanced (300/400 level) courses for which Honors sections are not offered. An IHC ideally includes a variety of assignments that are integrated into the course throughout the entire semester. An end-of-semester paper or project, or assignments that simply require additional work without extending upon course content do not meet this objective. In addition to the standard requirements for the course, the Individual Honors Contract must include several of the following:

- Regularly scheduled meetings with the faculty member throughout the semester in addition to the standard class meeting times to discuss the Honors work assigned for the course. Faculty interaction with students is a key element of the Honors experience.
- Two to three short writing assignments in addition to a final paper. Short assignments can lead up to a final writing assignment or can explore more specific course topics.
- Additional readings and oral presentations. Having students do extra reading followed by an oral presentation to the class enables all the class to benefit from the additional readings.
- Additional lab work with accompanying readings and discussion.
- Attendance at outside of the classroom enrichment activities. For example, students might be required to attend a theater production, a trade show, or a museum and write a short response or report back to the professor or class about the experience.
- A journal that leads up to a final project or paper, combined with regular meetings with the faculty member to discuss the journal and evaluate progress toward the final paper or project.
- Additional components may be included upon approval of the Honors Program.
- The Honors component should not be treated as extra credit, and sufficient weight should be allocated to the Honors assignments so that poor performance on this work impacts the final course grade (having the Honors component count for twenty-five percent of the final grade is an appropriate benchmark). Students who initiate an Individual Honors Contract agree that they will be graded for their work as a whole in the Honors course being created.

Applications that do not clearly describe Honors work consistent with the above guidelines and clearly specify how the Honors work will be factored into the course grade will be returned to the student. **Applications will not be accepted for introductory (100/200) level courses.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Applications are due at 5:00 PM on the second day of classes. Winter and Summer Sessions: before the 1st day of classes. For Study Abroad courses, Individual Honors Contracts must be submitted BEFORE departing for the program.

Submit to the Director of the Honors Program, 186 S. College Avenue. Late requests will not be accepted. There is no guarantee that the Honors Program Director will approve this request. Please submit the request as early as possible in case revisions are necessary or the request is denied and alternate course plans are needed.

3. Please attach the non-Honors syllabus of the course.

Additional Restrictions for Individual Honors Contracts

- Individual Honors Contracts are only allowed only for upper division (300/400 level) courses for which an Honors section is not regularly offered (e.g., if an Honors section is typically offered each fall semester, an IHC request for the same course in the spring semester will be denied). IHC's are ideally intended for use by a student interested in pursuing more in depth study of advanced material in the major or another field of significant interest to the student through a course for which an Honors section is not offered.
- Section changes, i.e. from Honors back to the regular section are only permitted before the University's 8 week withdrawal deadline.
- **A student requesting an IHC must have a minimum University of Delaware GPA of 3.20.**
- Only one Individual Honors Contract is allowed per semester, and no more than 3 total Individual Honors Contracts or Honors Independent Studies may be counted toward completion of the 30 Honors credits necessary for the Honors Degree.
- Creating an Individual Honors Contract is at the discretion of the individual faculty member and is subject to the approval of the department chair. Not all departments allow the creation of Individual Honors Contracts (e.g., CIS, ECON, and PSY).

We agree to the proposed Honors work as provided in the above description and have discussed the guidelines and grading of the Honors work.

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Signature

Date

Director, Honors Program Signature

Date

January 2012