

ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Option Contract

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Student's Name _____ Student's I.D. # _____ Semester _____ Year _____

Course Code _____ Course Title HON: _____ 5-digit CRN # _____

Instructor's Name _____ Department _____

[Research College of Nursing only: Course Coordinator: _____ Department _____]

Statement of Honors Option Contract
(Please Type)

To complete this course as an Honors Option, the student will fulfill the following requirements. Please write complete sentences and give enough detail to offer a picture of the project. You might include the process of exploration, the scope of the work, the format of the finished product (class presentation, researched paper, PowerPoint, sculpture), the subject of the project, the frequency of meetings, the outside readings, etc.

- **Completion.** The contract is to be completed by the end of the present semester.
- **Withdrawal.** Students are discouraged from withdrawing from honors options. Deadline for withdrawal from an option is the same date as the last day to withdraw from classes.
- **Meetings.** The student will meet with the instructor approximately every _____.
- This contract is for Honors credit. OR for Honors credit and a portion of the semester grade. _____.
- **Credit Hours.** This contract is for _____ credit hours (same as credit for the class).

Signature of the Honors Student

Date

Signature of the Course Instructor

Date

Signature of the Honors Director

Date

The Honors Director will provide a copy of this contract to the registrar and to each signatory.

How to Arrange an Honors Option

An honors option provides students the opportunity to take an active part in their education. It allows them to design their own research or creative project under the direction of an instructor who serves as a mentor. Using the honors option, students become independent researchers and are challenged in a manner that is not always possible in a regular class setting. When students approach a faculty member, they might have an idea for an option; it might require some refining or it might be unworkable. In either case, the faculty member may need to lend some assistance and guidance in arriving at a workable proposal.

Even though students may research and write a paper when contracting for an honors option, it need not be limited to this activity. Instead, some other type of innovative and creative work might be preferable. Listed below are examples of work that have been done over the past six years. This list is in no way exhaustive: it is merely illustrative.

- analyze the works of a given group of philosophers;
- compile an annotated bibliography on a specific topic;
- view and analyze films on a particular subject, for example, early and late films about the Vietnam War (*The Green Berets* v. *Full Metal Jacket*) or early and late films of a Shakespeare play, such as *Hamlet*;
- conduct experiments in the area of robotics, chemistry, or biology (the physics of a guitar; growth-factor gene in zebra fish, fruit fly gene, etc)
- undertake an exegesis of some biblical question;
- research a topic and write a paper using primary sources;
- teach a unit or topic to the class;
- prepare a paper to present at a student conference--discipline-based, the National Collegiate Honors Conference, or the Great Plains Honors Conference;
- conduct oral interviews on a specific topic and present findings in video or oral presentation.

If a faculty member agrees to serve as a cooperating instructor for a project, the students should do the following:

- discuss with instructor the possibility of contracting for an honors option;
- decide with the faculty member what the project will entail;
- specify the option to include the final product and submit the proposal on the honors option form provided;
- provide all the information that is requested;
- obtain the appropriate signatures;
- return the form to the Director by **end of the third full week of classes.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone the Honors Director at 501-4120.