A quick Guide to Honors Contracts

STUDENTS:

1 – Within the first few weeks of the semester, meet with your professor to decide upon an Honors contract.

2 – Submit a proposal during or around the halfway point of the semester. E-mail your proposal to honors@stchas.edu

16-week semester: submit a proposal by week 8

12-week semester: submit a proposal by week 6

8-week semester: submit a proposal by week 4

See the next 2 pages of this document for additional details about Honors Contracts and the proposal requirements.

Honors Contract Courses

A guide for faculty and students

An Honors contracted course allows students to engage in Honors-level coursework in classes not specifically designed for the SCC Honors program. Students participating in an Honors-contracted course will deepen their understanding of the course material by engaging in work that exceeds the regular course requirements. By completing the requirements set forth in a contract, students will receive Honors credit for a non-Honors course.

The purpose of an Honors contract is to increase the breadth and depth of a student’s knowledge and appreciation of the course material. What constitutes Honors-level work depends on the nature of the discipline. Students should approach faculty with ideas, but professors will determine what is appropriate Honors-level coursework for their classes.

Students and faculty should include the SCC Honors Program objectives when designing a course contract. They include Critical Thinking, Interdisciplinary Learning, Independent Research, and Civic Engagement. (Please see the next page for more details.) The course contracts should incorporate at least 2 of the objectives.

Honors contracts might include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

* Producing an independent research project that utilizes major research methods from the course
* Writing a research paper in which the student independently explores a topic related to the course
* Engaging in a service-learning project in which a student combines knowledge from the course with community service
* Completing a research project or paper that focuses on interdisciplinary learning – The student employs information from another discipline to better understand the coursework.
* Designing and completing creative work – writing, artwork, performance, etc.
* Presenting or teaching course material to the class

Honors students should contact professors within the first few weeks of the semester to discuss the possibility of doing an Honors contract. Faculty are not obligated to agree to an Honors contract. If a contract is agreed upon, students should submit the proposal to the Honors Director during or around the halfway point of the semester.

The responsibility of fulfilling the contract is the student’s. At the end of the semester, the professor will determine if the student fulfilled the terms of the contract and if the student’s work deserves Honors credit. Students must earn a “B” or higher in the course in order for it to count toward Honors credit.

Contract Guidelines

To turn in an Honors Contract proposal, please do the following:

**At the top of the document, include…**

1. Your full name
2. SCC student number
3. SCC e-mail address
4. Course title, number, and section for the contract
5. Professor’s name

**Please respond to these prompts:**

1 - Briefly describe the work or project you will complete in order to earn Honors credit. Explain how you believe the work or project will enhance your understanding of the course content.

2 – Explain how at least 2 of the following Honors objectives are addressed in your project:

**Critical Thinking** – Students will learn to skillfully analyze information. (Will you be doing that for your project? If so, in what ways?)

**Interdisciplinary Learning** – Students will discover connections between academic disciplines. (Will you be using knowledge or skills from other subjects to complete your project? If so, please explain.)

**Independent Research** – Students will learn to conduct independent research on topics that are meaningful to them. (Does your project require you to do research? If so, please explain.)

**Civic Engagement** – Students will develop a range of skills that will help them reflect upon and contribute to their community. (Will you participate in service learning activities or community service to complete your project? If so, please explain.)

3 – What is the agreed-upon deadline for the project?

E-mail your proposal to honors@stchas.edu