

## Collective Honors Contracts

**Description:** While Honors Course Contracts generally promote an individual student's initiative, leadership and self-directed learning, the Collective Honors Contract is made to foster Honors students' team-work skills, creativity, research skills, leadership, oral communication (teaching / tutoring), specific pre-professional skills and more, as appropriate, all the while furthering the students' learning in the discipline. Collective Contracts can be student driven, but will more often than not be faculty / Honors program driven projects, affording flexibility in developing Honors experiences in area studies where they are rare and where there may not be the critical mass of Honors students to justify an Honors Course line.

**Expectations:** Honors students engaged in an Honors Collective Contract:

- Must attain a minimum course grade of "B" in the regular course. Additional Honors requirements are not considered extra credit toward a final minimum course grade.
- Must fulfill the Honors requirements as described in the Collective Honors Contract.

**Project / Assignment(s):** Honors Collective Contract will vary greatly depending on the discipline in which they are developed. Ideally, the project developed by students under faculty mentorship will complement the students' learning in the course, and foster skills that are beyond the scope of the regular course. Examples of Collective Honors Contract include the following examples, but are by no means limited to them:

- When it makes sense, the Collective Honors Contract will foster students' professional skills, leading them to experience a team-work project development echoing of the work they will be expected to engage in once they enter the professional world.
- A small group of Honors students engaged in a project to further their research skills or their creative problem solving skills as it relates to the course topic might be invited to share their findings with the group. This could be done through discussion leading, a lecture type presentation or presentations, a sustained experience as tutor for students who may be struggling in the course.

**Benefits:** Echoing the experience students will have in Honors Courses, faculty will draw from Honors Students' input in their teaching and development of the course content. Encouraging honors students to learn from one another as they develop their project, the faculty member will be able to test different types of assignments that might down the line be meaningfully integrated in the course for all students. To reflect the different objectives of the Collective Honors Contract, the faculty is responsible for submitting the syllabus / scaffolded assignment(s) describing the project to be completed by the students.

**Questions?** Please contact Anne Dotter (annele@ku.edu)