



University of  
Massachusetts  
Lowell

One University Avenue  
Southwick 320  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854  
tel. 978.934.2797  
fax: 978.934.3088  
www.uml.edu/honors  
honors@uml.edu

HONORS PROGRAM

**Contract for Honors Credit**

Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Class (circle one): FR SO JR SR

Course Name and Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Semester (circle one): Fall Spring Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor : \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want this course to fulfill the writing requirement? \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach the new syllabus for the honors-by-contract course. This should include the following

1. The objective(s) of the contract
2. The tasks that the student will perform to earn honors credit
3. The percentage of the overall course grade that will be determined by the Honors Contract work
4. A tentative schedule of instructor/student conferences
5. If designed to meet the writing requirement, please specify what writing is involved and how the instructor will help the student improve his or her writing

Note the following:

1. Students must be enrolled in the Honors Program to register for Honors by Contract
2. No contracts will be approved for Summer or Winter (intersession) courses
3. No more than 1/2 of the student's total Honors credits may be fulfilled by contract
4. Blank contracts will not be approved

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors Director's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***This form and all attachments must be submitted to the Honors Program office (Southwick 320) by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of classes.***



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## HONORS PROGRAM

An honors contract is a way for an honors program student to obtain honors credit for a course that is not offered at the honors level. The professor and student agree on a required project or set of assignments that must be completed in order to obtain honors credit, essentially creating their own honors course. Honors courses should not be characterized exclusively by increased work requirements but should include activities and expectations designed to strengthen critical thinking, writing, and analytic skills and to enhance and enrich the student's learning experience. Examples of such activities include

- Incorporation of a cross-disciplinary approach to course content
- Addressing issues or recent developments at the international, national, or local level, or within a specific discipline
- Assignment of a variety of projects and writing exercises designed to hone the students' skills in writing and critical thinking
- Trips off-campus to museums, historic sites, libraries, corporations, laboratories, or other similar facilities, as appropriate
- Inclusion of laboratory or field research, archival or library research, or activities in the creative arts, as appropriate
- An honors-by-contract course may also fulfill the honors program writing requirement if it includes a significant writing component and is approved as such by the Honors Director.

Students are responsible for filing the honors by contract form with the Honors Office before the end of the Add/Drop period. The Registrar's Office is then notified of the contract agreement for the course and a separate section is created for that individual student with a section number in the 300's, usually 301. (A section number in the 300's indicates an honors course.)

A student may drop an honors contract on or before the fifth Wednesday of the semester. After that date, the only way to drop a contract is to drop the course because section changes are not permitted after that date.

Since the instructor and student have created a new course, there must be a new course syllabus. The honors contract form and the regular course syllabus together function as the syllabus for the honors course. The student must be graded according to the criteria spelled out on the contract form.

**Please contact the Honors Program Office if you have any questions.**