

SJC Honors Program

Spring 2024

### **San Jacinto College Honors Contracts**

**DUE DATE FOR SPRING 2024: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at Noon**

#### **What is an Honors contract?**

An Honors contract allows students who are not in designated Honors courses to earn Honors credit for a course. The goal of the Honors contract is to simulate, as closely as possible, the experience of Honors coursework. Projects, research, or other activities should be a collaborative effort between the student and the professor in the non-Honors course. The work proposed in the contract should go above and beyond regular course work. Novel and creative approaches to the subject matter are highly encouraged.

#### **General guidelines for professors regarding Honors contracts:**

1. Contracts are only allowed in face-to-face courses. A student cannot complete a contract if he/she is enrolled in an online course.
2. Students must get approval from the Honors Coordinator on campus before approaching their professor.
3. The student should take the initiative in the development of the project with the expert guidance of the professor.
4. Professors are under no obligation to agree to an Honors contract in their class.
5. Students may only attempt two contracts per semester.
6. Students may only earn credit in one course per contract. If a student is enrolled in more than one class with the same professor, the student must submit separate contracts for each course.
7. Contracts will be vetted twice—once at the campus level and once at the district level. The Honors Coordinator on your campus will inform the student and the professor of the status of the contract, including any corrections or additions that may be suggested. It is the student's responsibility to make any corrections or additions and resubmit the contract in a timely manner.
8. Completion of the Honors contract forms does not guarantee acceptance of the contract. The vetting committees can choose to accept or reject a contract for a variety of reasons.
9. Students must complete all requirements in class, earn an A or B in the class, and complete the contract to the professor's satisfaction to earn Honors credit.

**Some suggestions when discussing Honors contracts with students:**

1. Honors projects should involve significant work above and beyond the usual course requirements.
2. Possible approaches to the Honors work include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Creating interdisciplinary connections that allow students to make broad analytical links between different courses and fields of study.
  - b. A substantial writing component that encourages critical thinking and can include short critical essays, responses, reflections, and journal entries as well as a longer, well-documented research paper.
  - c. Using primary and secondary sources in ways that exceed class expectations.
  - d. Encouraging creative content delivery in presentations to the class including media and technology (e.g. podcasts, video, blogs, wikis, etc.).

**Honors Coordinators on each campus:**

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