

Tips for Writing a Successful Honors Course Enrichment Contract Proposal

Producing a successful Honors course enrichment proposal requires careful, creative thought and active consultation with a supervising professor.

- (1) Don't wait until the first week of the semester! If you think a course enrichment contract might be an academically valid option for you, then discuss it with your honors advisor, get their permission to proceed, and get started on your proposal.
- (2) Don't ask the professor to write the contract proposal for you. The professor's job is to provide guidance and feedback on a proposal you develop. It's your job to generate ideas and to write and rewrite the proposal until it's ready for submission.
- (3) Be sure the "course enrichment" activities are distinct from normal course activities (e.g., not just reading more chapters in the textbook).
- (4) Be sure to articulate your personal investment in the project – how it intersects with other intellectual or creative interests or projects that are important to you.
- (5) Be sure the enrichment proposal is sufficiently ambitious (e.g., not just one extra essay).
- (6) Be sure the contract specifies all of the requirements for successful contract completion and the criteria by which your supervising professor will assess your work.
- (7) Be sure to specify the learning activities you will undertake, a timeline showing when you will undertake each activity and the work products you will generate, and a clear statement of how you will achieve honors learning outcomes and your personal objectives by means of the course enrichment activities.