Chesapeake College Honors Course Contract

By agreeing to offer an honors option to students, instructors agree to fulfill the high standards of the Honors program (guidelines included below) and to submit two copies of this completed contract (1 electronic and 1 hard copy signed by the student and professor) to the Honors director, before the fifth week of the semester. This deadline must be met in order to guarantee Honors credit. Honors contracts must be approved by the Honors director, division Dean, and the Academic Vice President. The form below is designed to provide guidelines for an appropriate proposal.

Instructor Name: ________________________________

Course Number, Section, and Title: _____________________________

Student Name: ___________________________________ Student ID #:______________________

Honors contracts are designed to provide engaged students with alternative (as opposed to additional), assignments. These often take the form of experiential projects that require more creative thinking or hands-on activities with clear practical application. Assessments should not be “harder” for honors students, rather the purpose is to offer honors students an opportunity to interact more deeply and more personally with the subject matter of a given course. For more information, sample projects and model syllabi, please consult the Honors website: www.chesapeake.edu/peakehonors. The following criteria will help us to determine if the project meets honors option criteria and standards. Please be very detailed and specific in your responses.

Check the following honors objectives that will be met by the proposed course:

☐ Option will provide content about the history or background of the field being studied.
☐ Option will show an awareness of some of the field’s major theories or current trends.
☐ Option will require students to perform a case study, field experience, or other application.
☐ Option utilizes research methods including proper documentation for the discipline.
☐ Option will help students to demonstrate critical thinking and/or meta-cognitive abilities.

1. Please provide an overview of the proposed Honors option. Be sure to show (1.) how this work differs from what other students do in the course and (2) how this project will involve a high-degree of student participation and involvement.
2. What activities, assignments, or readings will provide greater depth and breadth of subject matter? Describe writing assignments and discuss how the option will foster critical thinking.

3. Explain research opportunities, documentation style, and/or how primary/secondary sources will be utilized.

4. Clarify how the student’s final grade will be assessed should he or she fail to complete the above project(s) & assignment(s). Note: Failing to complete an Honors contract will result in a maximum course grade of “C.”

5. Please provide a general outline of how the student will present this project. Contract participants should prepare for a poster-session in the LRC during the week before priority registration. Students who are still working on projects at this time may present their progress. This event will provide students with a venue to share their work with members of the college community while preparing for possible presentation at regional or national conferences. Students should follow NCHC Poster Guidelines 4-12, found on the National Collegiate Honors Council homepage: http://nchchonors.org/annual-conference/poster-guidelines/.
Signatures below indicate that the proposed projects and assignments represent a significant Honors experience. Further, both professor and student agree to fulfill all obligations and responsibilities outlined above.

Instructor Signature and Date: ______________________________________

Student Signature and Date: _______________________________________

Honors Director Signature and Date: _________________________________

Division Dean Signature and Date: _________________________________

Academic VP Signature and Date: _________________________________