A University Honors Program (UHP) student is seeking to complete an Honors Contract—an independent project—under your *faculty mentorship*.

- Second year UHP students may complete an Honors Contract with a faculty mentor who previously taught the student in a UHP course.
- Third year UHP students may complete an Honors Contract with a faculty member who taught the student in an upper division course.

An Honors Contract is not an extension of an assignment, but is new work that is a deeper exploration of a specific topic of the course content from the previously taken/concurrently taking course.

The Honors Contract Proposal form requires a student to *consult* with you regarding the independent project and to obtain your *signature of approval*. The following information is intended to apprise you of UHP and guide you through the Honors Contract prior to signing.

The University Honors Program. UHP is a campus wide honors program for high potential and motivated students. The program seeks to enrich the diverse needs of academic and socially conscious students through rigorous interdisciplinary opportunities, which foster active and collaborative learning, and engage contemporary and enduring issues. Through an enriched multidisciplinary undergraduate education, the program actively engages in critical thinking, affective learning, interpersonal expression, and nurturing and promoting the knowledge and attributes students possess.

Honors Contract. The Honors Contract is a one-credit course, HNR 190X, designated an independent project course. The class is pursued under *faculty mentorship* relating to the previously taken UHP, or upper division course previously or currently enrolled. The faculty mentor must have instructed the course that is linked to the independent project. Honors Contracts vary in form, but all require instructor contact, mentorship, and evaluation to ensure a high quality final product. Honors Contracts cannot be completed in conjunction with an independent study, internship, or course graded on a pass/no-pass basis.

Honors Contract Goal. The Honors Contract goal is to enrich student educational experiences. The facilitation of faculty mentorship increases faculty-student interactions and performance standards, while allowing the students to initiate and pursue an independent project that stimulates their intellectual curiosity. Honors contracts are not an extension of any previous course assignment.

Honors Contract Eligibility. An Honors Contract is limited to UHP students. It serves an avenue to satisfy part of the program curriculum. Only one contract may be used to replace a course for the duration of the student's academic career (e.g., Year 2 UHP course). Students are welcome to do a (second) contract for the Year 3 Project curriculum. Beyond those two curricula, students may submit contract proposals for academic enrichment.

Honors Contract Rigor. Honors Contracts are limited to one-credit hour, which is equivalent to three hours per week. These hours may include faculty-student meetings, topic research, service learning and final project completion. As a faculty mentor, please ensure that the project proposed is realistic and reflective of a one-credit hour course.

Honors Contract Approval. Students must complete the contract proposal in consultation with their proposed faculty mentor. The signed document must be email to UHPproposals@ucdavis.edu by the last day of instruction proceeding the proposed contract term. The UHP curriculum committee assesses each proposal. Approved contracts are issued a Course Registration Number (CRN).

Honors Contract Notification. Faculty and student participants will receive an email confirming the contract's approval prior to the start of the proposed term, which includes the Course Registration Number (CRN). The student has until the fifth day of the term to enroll in the HRN 190X course.

Final Project Due Date. Final project deliverables are determined and agreed upon by the faculty mentor and students during the proposal process and noted on the contract. UHP recommends the last day of instruction.

Student Responsibilities. An Honors Contract must be completed, signed by the faculty mentor, submitted in its entirety (see: Honors Contract Approval), and be enrolled in no later than the fifth day of the term. The student must meet with their faculty mentor a minimum of three times during the quarter to explore the subject matter, review academic progress, and receive constructive advice. The Honors Contract's final product must be completed by the date that was mutually agreed upon. The student will be emailed an Honors Contract survey during the last two weeks of the term and is required to complete a questionnaire by the end of the term in order for the contract to be recorded toward UHP curriculum.

Faculty Mentor Responsibilities. As the instructor of record for the Honors Contract, course HNR 190X, the faculty mentor agrees to assist a student in the development and fulfillment of their Honors Contract. To ensure the goals and workload are carried out successfully, faculty must meet with their student a minimum of three times during the term to discuss the subject matter, review academic progress, and offer constructive feedback. A course letter grade must be submitted within three days of the last day of instruction. Grades are submitted through the general, online process, for grade submission.

Honors Contract Grade. The faculty mentor and student—as part of the contract consultation—will want to discuss the final product's grading criteria. Faculty have the prerogative to assign the final letter grade. Performance measures do not need to follow a standard course grade. The final grade may consider, but not limited to: research process, concept knowledge and application, benchmarks met, and final product. The final letter grade is entered by the faculty mentor through the UC Davis, E-Grading website.

More Information. UHP information can be found at honors.ucdavis.edu or by visiting us in 1350 The Grove. We appreciate your University Honors Program support!