“COURSE BY CONTRACT”
Any course may be taken in this manner.
(Please see reverse side of this form for definitions and details.)

Student Instructions:

1. Before the semester starts:

   Meet with the professor, write the learning contract, and get the professor’s approval.
   Submit this form to the Honors Program Office with the typed learning contract attached.

2. Course by Contract forms must be submitted to the Honors Program Office by the last day of registration the semester before the contract will start unless other arrangements have been made with the Honors Program Office.

Professor Instructions:

Please sign below if the attached learning contract meets your approval. If the contract does not meet with your approval please have the student revise the contract.

Basic Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KU Email:</td>
<td>Cell phone:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Professor:</td>
<td>Email:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Department:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Course Prefix, Number, Section:</td>
<td>Credits:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title:</td>
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<td>Planned Graduation Date:</td>
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Approval of Learning Contract:

Contract Approved by Student (Signature/Date):

Contract Approved by Course Professor (Signature/Date):

Contract Approved by Honors Director (Signature/Date):

Contract Complete, Grade Assigned, Honors Director Signature:

Date Completed: Grade Assigned:
Definition of Terms

What is a “Course by Contract”? Honors students sign up for a regular course through the normal advising process. The difference comes in that they negotiate a separate Learning Contract with the professor. The course by contract is a chance for honors students to explore their interests in depth within a normal course.

Student Instructions: The Course by Contract must be a student-initiated process. The semester before the course starts, the student should discuss possible approaches with the professor. (In the past, some students have simply gone to the professor and asked them to come up with an additional project. But part of the point of the learning contract is for students themselves to think through what they wish to learn – and why.)

Learning Contract: The contract is a substantial piece of student work in itself. It involves careful thought about goals and methods. Ideally, students will use this learning contract to begin approaching their capstone project in some way, whether by providing context, knowledge, or skills that may eventually be used for the thesis. They may also use the learning contract to explore possible ideas for the thesis project, to develop their thesis project proposal, and to develop a working relationship with a professor.

A learning contract can be as creative and ambitious as you wish to make it. Give yourself time to do it right. Your goals can change as you learn more over the course of the semester. At a minimum, it should include:

a) Learning goals. What, specifically, do you wish to learn or achieve? Why? How can you relate these goals in some way to your possible thesis project area?

b) A plan for achieving these learning goals, including a timeline. What will you do? Will you work with other honors students in the class, or as an individual? Will you do all the work that other students in the class do – and more? Or will some of your Honors work replace some of the normal workload on the syllabus?

c) Doing original work – engaging with original work. Some aspect of your learning contract should involve engaging with non-textbook original work in your field. Some aspect of your learning contract should involve your own creative efforts. Honors learning activities cannot only involve consumption and regurgitation.

Required Format: The format of the learning contract depends on the field. A chemistry learning contract will look far different from a theater contract. A Course by Contract intended to result in a thesis proposal will be far different from a course by contract at the very start of your college career.

Contract Approved by Course Professor: Supervising your learning contract needs to be a job the professor wishes to do. Professors: Please approve the contract if it seems doable, worthwhile, and interesting. The contract may involve the student doing all the normal work of the course, plus additional enrichment, or it may involve the student doing work that substitutes for some or all of the normal work for the class.

Contract Approved by Honors Director: The proposal will be approved if it names significant, specific, and achievable goals, and a realistic plan to achieve them.

Contract Approved by Student: The primary author of this document is the student. The document needs to name a goal that the student wishes to achieve. By signing this, you are stating your interest in this project, and committing to achieve it. If your goals change, that’s a good thing! Reflect on these changes in your narrative self-assessment.

Contract Fulfilled - Course Professor: At the beginning of each semester a copy of the contract will be sent to each Course by Contract professor for his records. At the end of each semester a grade request form will be sent to each Course by Contract professor asking if the contract was completed satisfactorily and what grade was received. Only an A or B will be registered. Any grade below a B is not acceptable for a Course by Contract.

Contract Fulfilled – Honors Director: The Honors Director must certify that the student has fulfilled the requirements by approving and signing the Course by Contract form.