

Western Carolina University Honors College

Earning Honors Credits



Honors College Students at Western Carolina University earn Honors Credits in three ways:

- Honors Courses
- Honors Contracts
- Study Abroad

Honors Courses

Each semester the departments and programs across the University will offer courses that are designated as honors sections. These courses provide Honors College students with the opportunity to study along side a group of academically-focused peers and be challenged appropriately by a faculty member who has been selected for the course. Honors sections are typically smaller classes than regular sections, limited to a fewer number of students. Section sizes are typically in the 20-24 person range. Honors sections are restricted to WCU Honors College students, but may occasionally be opened to students with high academic standing with the professor's recommendation and permission. Upon completion of the Honors Section of the course, the student earns honors-designated credits and the student's transcript reflects the honors level work accomplished. Students register for Honors Courses via the regular on-line registration process.

Honors Contracts

The contract is a mutual agreement between the Honors College student and a faculty member on a project or activity in a regular course (not an Honors Section) that will allow the course to be custom designated as honors on the student's transcript. The Honors Contract can be pursued for any course at WCU, including internships and distance/online courses. Whether or not a particular course is amenable to honors modification is ultimately the decision of the professor. Student must be in good standing to be eligible to pursue an Honors Contract in a given semester. (In good standing means that the student must not be on probation or removed from the college due to grade or lack of earned credit hours.) Honors credit is attached to the course, and the credit hours earned are equal to the credit hours for the course. The professor will determine whether or not the contract has been fulfilled at the end of the semester. Students register for Honors Contracts by completing an Honors Contract form in collaboration with the course instructor. The deadline for submitting Honors Contracts is the end of the fifth week of classes each semester. All Honors Contracts are subject to approval by the Dean of the Honors College.

Study Abroad

Honors College students who are enrolled in credit-bearing courses through accredited programs abroad will earn 3 honors-designated credits for each semester that the student is abroad. Specific attachment of credits to course is flexible. A student studying abroad may earn up to 12 honors-designated credits in total. An Honors Contract describing the work to be accomplished while away must be submitted by the deadline for the semester during which travel is to take place.