

### **Clarifications Regarding Honors Contracts- Kathy Patterson, Coordinator of Honors**

Students in the Honors Transfer Program (required to have a 3.0 GPA, two recommendors, and eligibility for English 101) may ask faculty to do an honors contract in a UC-transferable course. Faculty are not obligated to do so, but it does provide faculty with opportunities to have highly motivated students do some research or exploratory work in areas that maybe the class does not have time to go into, to present on material that opens up a unit, to engage with students in some experiments that faculty want to try out for future classes, or simply to help students achieve their goals of finishing the 15 units of honors required to complete the program and of becoming eligible for transfer agreements such as the one with UCLA called TAP. This year, for Fall 2017, CA community college certified Honors Transfer Program completers who applied to UCLA with their major prep work done and an over 3.2 GPA were accepted at a rate of 77%, 89% of those into their first major choice (as Honors, they can ask for consideration in two majors as long as the second is not on the impacted "forbidden second major" list.) The entire transfer applicant pool had around a 26% acceptance rate, so honors matters. By the way, average GPA was over 3.75 for all UCLA acceptances.

Honors completers with a 3.7 are accepted to UCI's campus wide Honors Program and into UCI for just about every major other than Nursing and those needing auditions, like Dance. So far, most of those accepted have also been offered money, in the form of Regents Scholarships. Contracts help students who may not have seen themselves as honors until after the first semester or two when they have done their normal GE classes that we regularly offer as honors seminars, such as English 101H. They also fill the gap for STEM majors who have few options in honors curriculum.

Faculty from various disciplines are doing contracts and have come up with interesting assignments that can be shared with those contemplating what might be involved. Working with the students can be done in office hours or count as flex, but we understand that it is sometimes difficult to pack another thing into one's schedule, and there is no extra pay assigned to do it. Faculty have the right to say no, but please do so right away so that students may look for other options.

Students should give faculty contract paperwork to fill out together, and I should receive the contract, signed, by the fourth week of school or appropriately scaled timeline for classes offered off the normal 16-week schedule.

To earn the honors designation, the student has to complete the coursework with a "B" or better averaged grade AND the extra honors work must also average to a "B" or better. The successful contracts have already allowed at least six 2016 graduates to complete the program who would not otherwise have been able to given class offerings, what students had already taken as non-honors, and major prep work clashes with other honors courses. This year, contracts are partially responsible for nearly a third of the MCHS graduating senior students' completing the HTP & at least two of the UCLA-accepted honors students so far. Thank you, whoever asked the question, for allowing me to inform us all of the contract. Big thanks to all who have completed or are doing contracts right now. There are new Biology partners from Environmental Science and Cellular Microbiology as well as from Child Development, Kinesiology, and Accounting. Contracts done in Criminal Justice also helped lead the honors course curriculum going through the approval process now.