

Two options for Honors at Sierra College

(Students can choose to participate in either one or both)

- 1) **Honors Course Contracts**, which can lead to participation in and completion of the **Honors Program**
- 2) The **Sierra College Honor Society**

1a) Honors Course Contracts

Students interested in a more challenging classroom experience may contract with a willing instructor to complete the course with Honors credit. These are not separate Honors classes, but rather standard classes* for which a contract is created detailing higher-level assignments, projects, internships, or other activities that qualify as Honors-level coursework to be completed by the student. The student and instructor create the contract and its requirements must be completed by the end of the semester. Instructors are not required to engage in Honors contracts, so it is a good idea to email or call instructors prior to registering for classes to ask if they would be willing to enter into Honors Contracts. Completion by a student of the Honors course contract stipulations along with an earned course grade of A or B will result in a notation on the student's transcript indicating that the course was "Completed with Honors." Please note completion of Honors Contracts does not affect the student's GPA. Honors course contract documents are available at

www.sierracollege.edu/programs/honors.htm. Completed contract proposals must be submitted to Jennifer Kattman in Weaver 217 for approval by the Honors Advisory Board by Thursday of the 4th week of either the fall or spring semester. The Honors contract project then commences in the 5th week and must be finished by the end of the semester in which the contract was approved. Honors Contracts are not permitted during the summer semester.

* Any degree-applicable course at Sierra College, with the exception of Developmental Education courses, may be taken for Honors credit.

1b) The Honors Program

The Honors Program provides eligible students with a holistic Honors education at Sierra College. Prerequisites to join the Honors Program include both of the following:

- 1) Successful completion of 6 units of Honors Course Contracts
- 2) Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher based on a minimum of 12 units of transferable college course work

Once a student has been admitted into the Honors Program, he or she continues to enter into Honors Course Contracts with willing instructors. The Honors Program concludes once the student completes a minimum of 15 units of Honors Course Contracts and graduates from Sierra College with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. The student's transcript will be noted "Honors Program Completed." *Please note that a student must apply for admission to the*

Honors Program in order to be considered. Simply completing 15 units of Honors Course Contracts will not automatically qualify as completion of the Honors Program.

Admission to the Honors Program

Once a student has fulfilled the aforementioned requirements to join the Honors Program, the student must submit the following items to the Honors Advisory Board (c/o Prof. Jennifer Kattman, 916-660-8067, jkattman@sierracollege.edu, Room 217 in Weaver Hall):

- 1) An unofficial copy of the student's complete college transcripts
- 2) A typed, 250-word essay, specifying:
 - a) Your goals
 - b) How Honors work will help you achieve these goals
 - c) Any other information not visible on your transcripts that may be relevant for the Committee to consider with your application

2) The Sierra College Honor Society Phi Theta Kappa – The International Honor Society of the Two-Year College:

Students who have completed at least 12 units of degree-applicable course credit at Sierra College with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in courses

taken at Sierra are eligible to join the college's Beta Mu Zeta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.



The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. Phi Theta Kappa membership includes the following benefits (See www.ptk.org for more information):

- participation in service activities on campus and in your community
- the development of leadership skills
- fellowship with other students at Sierra College, other local colleges, and from around the world
- access to a giant database of \$37 million in Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarships (some are given simply for being a member while others are competitive)
- free enrollment in The Transfer Database, used by hundreds of senior colleges and universities to recruit Phi Theta Kappa transfer students
- letters of recommendation for college admissions counselors, scholarship officials, and potential employers
- sponsored trips for active members to international and regional conventions (2010 International Convention is in Orlando, Florida at Disney World!)
- special offers and discounts from Phi Theta Kappa partner businesses
- Phi Theta Kappa honors regalia to wear at graduation

Honor Society membership applications can be picked up outside of Weaver 217 or by emailing Prof. Jennifer Kattman at jkattman@sierracollege.edu. There is a \$75 lifetime membership fee to join. Fee scholarships are available for active members who demonstrate financial need.

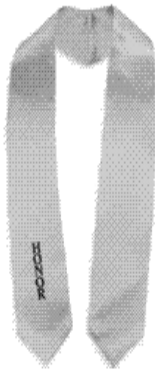
Why participate in Honors?

- To better develop your intellectual interests and creativity
- To hone your academic skills so you are better prepared for future educational challenges
- To work more closely with Sierra College faculty and other extremely motivated and talented students
- To receive recognition for the enhanced challenges of Honors work including transcript notation of successful Honors courses, program participation, and transfer advantages.

Graduation Recognitions

Honors Program

Graduates – a special gold Honor stole will be provided to wear at the Sierra College spring commencement ceremony. *(If a student completes the 15-unit Honors Course Contract requirement of the Honors Program but does not meet the 3.5 GPA requirement, he or she will be provided a special maroon and white Double Honor Chord.)*



Honor Society

Members – an official blue and gold Phi Theta Kappa double honor chord will be provided to wear at the spring commencement ceremony.



Common Questions About Honors at Sierra College

What if I enter into an Honors Contract and do not complete it?

If you do not complete an Honors contract, you may continue to work in the course and earn regular credit for that course.

Can I enter into Honors contracts without ever applying for admission into the Honors Program?

Yes. Your transcripts will show which courses for which you received Honors credit but your transcripts will note “Honors Program Completed” only if you are admitted into and successfully graduate from the Honors Program.

How many Honors contracts may I enter into in a given semester?

A student may enter into only 1 contract the first time he or she attempts honors coursework. After successful completion of 1 contract, a student may enter into a maximum of 10 units of contracts each semester.

How do I know if Honors is for me?

Honors students are intellectually curious and willing to work a little harder to learn. They are independent, highly motivated, and creative thinkers. Your overall GPA is usually a good indicator of your academic strength, but not necessarily. Your willingness to go the extra mile to learn and challenge yourself is probably the strongest indicator of your ability to participate successfully in Honors work.

Honors Mission at Sierra

To provide highly motivated, academically talented students a broader, more challenging intellectual experience and to promote excellence in education through the creation and enhancement of academic, cultural, and social opportunities.

The Honors program is designed to honor the unique relationship between teaching and learning, to develop the distinctive capabilities of students and educators, and to provide students with a balance of a greater challenge and the support they require to respond to that challenge.

Other Honors Information

Sierra College is a member of the Honors Transfer Council of California.

For additional information contact:

Prof. Jennifer Kattman

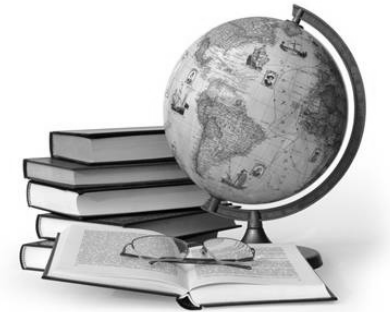
**Honors Program Coordinator and
Phi Theta Kappa Advisor
(916) 660-8067**

Email: jkattman@sierracollege.edu

**Sierra College Honors Website:
www.sierracollege.edu/Programs/honors.htm**

**Phi Theta Kappa Website:
www.ptk.org**

Honors at SIERRA COLLEGE



*Live Your
Potential!*

Academic Year