

## **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, or other activities that qualify as Honors-level coursework to be completed by the student. The student and instructor create the contract together, 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 e-mail 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 that Honors courses do not weight the student's GPA, and there is no minimum GPA required to participate in Honors Contracts.

Honors course contract information and forms can be found at [www.sierracollege.edu/programs/honors.htm](http://www.sierracollege.edu/programs/honors.htm). Completed contract proposals must be e-mailed to the Honors Committee at [honors@sierracollege.edu](mailto:honors@sierracollege.edu) by Thursday of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of either the fall or spring semester. Following approval, the Honors contract project 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. To join the Honors Program the student must have:

- 1) Successfully completed at least 6 units of Honors courses;
- 2) Earned a 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 contact the chair of the Honors Advisory Board (Prof. Rebecca Quinn 916-660-8038, [rquinn@sierracollege.edu](mailto:rquinn@sierracollege.edu), Room M4B) to get the application materials. There is an official admission process that must be followed.

### **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 coursework (with the exception of Developmental Education courses) 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](http://www.ptk.org) for more information):

- participation in service activities on campus and in the community;



- the development of leadership skills;
- fellowship with other students at Sierra College, other local colleges, and 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 and special Honor Society designation in [www.collegefish.org](http://www.collegefish.org), used by hundreds of senior colleges and universities to recruit and offer scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa transfer students;
- letters of recommendation for college admissions counselors, scholarship officials, and potential employers;
- Honor Society-sponsored trips for active members to international and regional conventions;
- special offers and discounts from Phi Theta Kappa partner businesses;
- Phi Theta Kappa honors regalia to wear at graduation.

**If you have fulfilled the requirements of the Sierra College Honor Society, you should have received an invitation to join via email or U.S. Postal Mail. If you did not receive your invitation, Honor Society membership applications can be picked up in the Student Life Office (J Building). You must submit the application and a copy of your transcripts to join. Once approved, you will get a code to pay your \$75 lifetime membership fee online with a credit or debit card. Fee scholarships are available for active members who demonstrate financial need.**

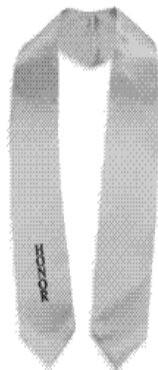
**For further information, please direct all inquiries regarding PTK to [jfile@sierracollege.edu](mailto:jfile@sierracollege.edu)**

## Why participate in Honors Contracts?

- 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 units of Honors Course Contracts but does not meet the 3.5 GPA requirement, he or she will be provided with a special maroon and white Double Honor Cord instead of the gold stole.)*



**Honor Society Members** – an official blue and gold Phi Theta Kappa double honor cord will be available 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. There is no penalty.

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

Yes. Your transcripts will read “Completed with Honors” for each course in which you complete an Honors contract, 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 she or he 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 both a greater challenge and the support they require to respond to that challenge.

**For additional information regarding Honors at Sierra, visit our Web site:**

[www.sierracollege.edu](http://www.sierracollege.edu) ~ Search Honors

**If you have questions about Honors Course Contracts or the Honors Program, contact Prof. Rebecca Quinn  
Honors Program Coordinator  
[rquinn@sierracollege.edu](mailto:rquinn@sierracollege.edu)  
(916) 660-8038**

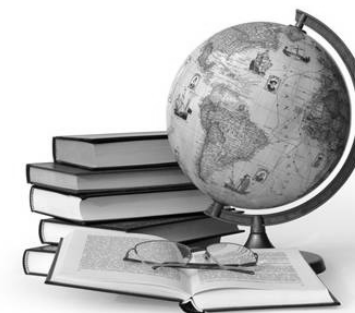
**For more information about PTK, contact advisor Jason File:  
[jfile@sierracollege.edu](mailto:jfile@sierracollege.edu)  
(916) 660-7381**

**or visit one of the following Web sites:**

**Phi Theta Kappa International  
Web site: [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org)**

**Facebook: Search "Sierra College Honor Society - Beta Mu Zeta"**

HONORS  
at  
SIERRA COLLEGE



*“Live Your  
Potential”*