



Handbook

Welcome to the College of Nursing Honors Program!

Welcome to the University of Colorado College of Nursing Honors Program. We are delighted that you will be participating in this exciting experience.

You will be a part of a small group of selected students mentored by faculty members in regular meetings and seminars. You will get to know students from every level in the nursing Honors Program. Students will share experiences, and complete leadership opportunities such as conducting important research projects.

In the program, you will work with nurse scientists on their studies and complete and disseminate a scholarly research Thesis of your own. In addition, you will take six extra seminar credits to prepare for advanced studies and expose you to the nursing leaders.

The Honor's Program benefits are numerous. It is challenging, requires work beyond the usual curriculum, and prepares students for graduate study and leadership in the profession.

My best to you as you begin this fulfilling journey.

Sincerely,

Madalynn Neu, PhD, RN
Coordinator, Nursing Honors Program

**University of Colorado
College of Nursing**

I. Honors Program Description

A. Program Goal

Participants in the Honors Program are prepared for active engagement in research with the necessary knowledge, skills, and values predictive of successful graduate study. They will also have enhanced personal growth in preparation for successful careers that demonstrate leadership and excellence in nursing.

B. Specific Aims

Upon completion of the Honors Program, students will have:

- 1) Identified a substantive area of nursing that has the potential to be the focus of graduate study
- 2) Produced an honors Thesis demonstrating the science of nursing
- 3) Actively disseminated their research findings
- 4) Completed an educational experiences that enhances their nursing scholarship
- 5) Participated in experiences that promote leadership capability

C. Benefits of the Program

The CU Nursing Honors Program includes many advantages for students, future employers, nursing, and society. As a part of enhanced academic learning, the honors research experience offers students the opportunity to explore in depth the theories, concepts, literature and published research in their specific area of interest. Students are guided with the help of faculty and mentors to integrate and apply knowledge from scholarly literature apply critical thinking skills to the development of a testable research hypothesis. This program provides many opportunities to develop and refine writing and speaking skills.

An expectation of students in the Honors Program is to pursue doctoral education soon after completing their Baccalaureate degree. As a result of the exposure to research and mentoring opportunities, students in the Honors Program are more prepared to pursue PhD education. The Honors Program includes social events and structured supervised activities in which to interact with research faculty, and PhD students. Individualized mentorship in scholarly inquiry facilitates the development of important professional partnerships and student's research focus, which can improve successful doctoral education admission and progression.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of acknowledgement at the CU College of Nursing Honors Convocation.

D. Selection of Candidates

Application to the Honors Program is by invitation. Newly admitted College of Nursing program students are invited to apply based on their GPA, interest or experience in research, leadership capability, and recommendations by faculty and research advisors. Applications are then reviewed by faculty. At that point, select applicants will be invited for an interview. Following these interviews, finalists are selected for the Honors Program. Students begin the Honors seminar courses in their Junior year.

II. Structure of the Program

A. Program Overview

The Coordinator of the Honors Program will organize and oversee the Honors Program. Upon entering the Honors Program, students will be assigned to a student group that is coordinated by a group mentor who is a faculty member at the College of Nursing. These groups will attend special Honors Events and Research Presentations every month. The groups will meet with the faculty group mentor to discuss their experiences and issues, and obtain advice on meeting Honors Program requirements. Students will remain in their groups throughout their educational program.

B. Honors Coursework

Students will participate in **NURS 3216 and NURS 3226 (Honors Seminar I and II)** during the junior level, and **NURS 4236 NURS 4246 (Honors Seminar III and IV)** at the senior level. This series of four required seminar courses are designed to introduce students enrolled in the Honors program to mentorship opportunities, leadership experiences, inquiry regarding research and ethics, and the plethora of career opportunities in nursing available to them.

Students will begin their focused work with a nursing faculty research preceptor in the spring of their junior year. Students must take 2 credits of (**NURS 4727**), **Independent Study: Honors**. The final Thesis of this experience is a scholarly paper and poster. Courses are described below:

NURS 3216 NURS Honors Seminar 1 (1 credit hour)

This is the first in a series of four required seminar courses designed to introduce topics relevant to development of the senior thesis proposal and broader discussions and readings related to ethical and leadership roles in the profession of nursing.

By the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Identify a research problem of interest in nursing and initiate a plan for in-depth study
2. Begin a focused literature search using relevant electronic data-bases
3. Develop a research question with related hypotheses
4. Review exemplars of leadership in nursing and the community
5. Understand the ethical codes and regulations for the responsible conduct of research

NURS 3226 NURS Honors Seminar II (1 credit hour)

This is the second in a series of four required seminar courses designed to continue to explore of topics relevant to development of the senior thesis proposal and broader discussions and readings related to ethical and leadership roles in the profession of nursing.

By the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Develop a plan for in-depth study of a researchable question including hypothesis testing
2. Complete a thorough literature search on topic of interest using relevant electronic data-bases
3. Communicate research concepts and goals to faculty and other students
4. Describe characteristics of leaders in nursing and the community
5. Implement as required the ethical codes and regulations for the responsible conduct of research

NURS 4236 NURS Honors Seminar III (1 credit hour)

This is the third in a series of four required seminar courses. Topics are relevant to the senior thesis and students' career development as leaders in nursing. This seminar provides opportunity for students to share progress and insights with peers and to engage in topical discussions.

By the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Work effectively with mentor to implement a research protocol
1. Offer reflection and critique to colleagues in pursuit of professional goals
2. Reflect on examples of key leadership demonstrations by nurses in practice and in the community
3. Implement the ethical codes and regulations for the responsible conduct of research

NURS 4246 NURS Honors Seminar IV (1 credit hour)

This is the final in a series of four required seminar courses. As a continuation of Seminar III, topics relate directly to the senior thesis and students' career development as leaders in nursing. Seminars continue to provide opportunity for students to share progress and insights with peers and to engage in topical discussions.

By the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Work effectively with mentor to complete research thesis study
2. Develop a portfolio containing a reflection of personal growth experienced through the Honors Program
3. Review and demonstrate exemplars of leadership in nursing and the community
4. Critique the current ethical codes and regulations for the responsible conduct of research and identify their limitations

C. Additional Enrichment Experiences

During the Honors Program, enrichment experiences might include opportunities to shadow specialized practitioners, attend professional meetings and speaker presentations, and conduct a research project with a designated faculty mentor.

D. Mentored Research Experience

A major component of the Honors Program is a mentored experience with a College of Nursing scientist. Students will register for **NURS 4727** during their senior year towards the 2 credits of honors independent study (1 credit in the fall and 1 credit in the spring semester). The product of this mentored research experience will be an honors project: a scholarly paper and poster presentation. Students are expected to select a research preceptor during their junior year. Students will complete the "Guidelines for Undergraduate Nursing Honors Thesis Approval Form" indicating their preceptor selection with a signed agreement from the research preceptor. This will be submitted to Madalynn Neu, Coordinator, BS Honors Program for committee review and approval by the end of the summer semester (August 15th) prior to the senior year.

E. Honors Thesis

Students will submit a completed honors Thesis paper *to their research preceptor by April 30 of the senior year*. The required poster, to compliment the paper, will be presented at the AMC student research day in the spring of his/her senior year. Failure to complete the Honors Thesis or poster will result in withdrawal of the Honors Program Scholarship and any associated funding.

F. Maintaining Honors Designation

A minimum GPA of 3.0 each term must be maintained. If the term and/or cumulative GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be asked to leave the Honors Program. In addition, the failure of any course will result in a dismissal from the Honors Program. The Honors Program scholarship will be withdrawn if a student is asked to leave the Honors Program. Students can also be dismissed from the Honors Program by the Honors Program Coordinator for infractions related to the academic and professional code of conduct.

G. Summary of Student Responsibilities*

- 1) Attend all scheduled Honors Program meetings and events
- 2) Complete all traditional and honors course requirements
- 3) Adhere to the "Guidelines for Undergraduate Nursing Honors Project"
- 4) Complete the "Honors Directed Research Approval Form" by August 15th before senior year
- 5) Work with the research preceptor on the faculty's research or related project
- 6) Complete a scholarly project, including a Thesis and poster, under supervision of a faculty research mentor by April 15th of the senior year.

H. Outstanding Honors Thesis Award

Each year, a group of faculty will select a senior honor's paper for the Outstanding Honors Thesis Award. The student and their faculty research preceptor are honored with a certificate and a small monetary award.

Note: Honor students receive a scholarship each term and are expected to meet all Honors Program requirements, including satisfactory work with the research preceptor and a B or better on the final scholarly project.

The University of Colorado
College of Nursing
Honors Curriculum Plan*
Effective, June, 2013

Semester	Course	Course Name	Semester Hours
Summer	NURS 3023	Patient-Centered Health Assessment	3
	NURS3140	Pathophysiology for Nurses	3
		<i>Total semester credit hours</i>	6
		ALL TERM	
Fall	NURS 3150	Pharmacology for Nurses	3
	NURS 3277	Community Health Promotion I	1
	NURS 3216	Honors Seminar I	1
		BLOCK 1	
	NURS 3033	Foundations of Quality, Safe Nursing Practice	4
		BLOCK 2	
	NURS 3617	Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice 1	6
		<i>Total semester credit hours</i>	15
		ALL TERM	
Spring	NURS 3132	Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice (or Fall 2014)	3
	NURS 3226	Honors Seminar II	1
		BLOCK 1	
	NURS3667	Nursing Care of the Older Adult	2
	NURS 3337	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	5
		BLOCK 2	
	NURS 4071	Interprofessional Education: Ethics, Teamwork, Quality I	1
	NURS 3447	Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents	5
		<i>Total semester credit hours</i>	17
Summer	NURS 3287	Community Health promotion II (<i>extends into Fall term</i>)	1
	NURS 3557	Mental Health Nursing Across the Life Span	6
		<i>Total semester credit hours</i>	7
		ALL TERM	
	NURS 4236	Honors Seminar III	1
Fall	NURS 4727	Independent Study: Honors	1
		BLOCK 1	
	NURS 3770	The Nursing Profession: History, Role, and Trends	1
	NURS 4072	Interprofessional Education: Ethics, Teamwork, Quality II	1

	NURS 4617	Nursing Care of the Adult Patient with Complex Care Needs	7
		BLOCK 2	
	NURS4917	Community & Population Focused Nursing	6
		<i>Total semester credit hours</i>	<i>17</i>
		All Term	
	NURS 4246	Honors Seminar IV	1
Spring	NURS 4727	Independent Study: Honors	1
		BLOCK 1	
	NURS 4073	Professional Nursing: Interprofessional Law	1
		BLOCK 2	
	NURS4917	Immersion in Clinical Nursing	8
		<i>Total semester credit hours</i>	<i>11</i>
		<i>Total credit hours (66+6 Honors Credits)</i>	<i>72</i>

*This is a sample schedule that is subject to change; consult with your advisor regularly to discuss your plan of study.

Guidelines for Undergraduate Nursing Program Honors Thesis

I. Undergraduate Nursing Honors Thesis

Junior or senior standing. Required of all Honors Program students.

The Undergraduate Nursing Honors Thesis is an opportunity for Honor students to engage in a major independent scholarly project. Under the guidance and approval of a faculty research preceptor, the student develops a formal proposal with objectives, plan of action, final product, and methods of evaluation.

II. Procedure

- A. The student will develop a plan or idea for the honors project, draft a concise statement of interest, and approach a faculty person with expertise in that area of study to negotiate the research experience.
- B. The student, with research preceptor guidance, and approval, will develop a brief proposal for the Thesis (approx. 2-4 pages) to include:
 1. Why is the question you are asking important and how does it fit in with the big picture?
 2. What is your hypothesis and what are the objectives of the research?
 3. What results do you expect to find and why?
 4. What is the current status of knowledge in the field (i.e. current literature search)?

5. What materials and methods will be needed to answer the research question?
- C. Students will register for a total of 2 credits of Independent study in the Fall and Spring of senior year (NURS 4727). Most students register for (NURS 4727) during their senior year, although may negotiate with their research preceptor to register for one of those independent study credits in junior year.
- D. In keeping with general academic guidelines, one credit hour equals a minimum of three (3) hours of study per week.
- E. The final required product will be a written scholarly paper and a poster presentation, submitted by April 15th of the senior year.
- F. The Undergraduate Nursing Honors Thesis will be evaluated by the research preceptor and assigned a **letter grade**. Plus/minus grade designations for the grade can be used at the research preceptor's discretion.
- G. Federal regulations and University of Colorado policy require that all investigations using human beings or animals as subjects of research must be reviewed and approved by an appropriate University IRB committee. In addition, the honors student investigators need to undergo certification by completing the training offered through [CITI information].

THESIS PROPOSAL

Before beginning research, a *Thesis Proposal* (approximately 2 to 4 pages) should be written which includes the following information:

6. Why is the question you are asking important and how does it fit in with the big picture?
7. What is your hypothesis and what are the objectives of the research?
8. What results do you expect to find and why?
9. What is the current status of knowledge in the field (i.e. current literature search)?
10. What materials and methods will be needed to answer the research question?

This proposal, along with a *Thesis Proposal Form* should be signed by your Faculty Research Advisor and submitted to the BS Honors Coordinator by **April 30** for approval before beginning your research project.

Why is the question you are asking important and how does it fit in with the big picture?

What is your hypothesis and what are the objectives of the research?

What results do you expect to find and why?

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What is the current status of knowledge in the field (i.e. current literature search)?

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What materials and methods will be needed to answer the research question?

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Document developed: 1/3/14.

THESIS PROPOSAL FORM

This form should be completed by the student and Faculty Research Advisor by April 30 of Junior Year. After all signatures and approvals have been obtained attach a copy of the proposal to this form and return it to the BS Honors Coordinator, Madalyn Neu (303-724-8550; madalynn.neu@ucdenver.edu).

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ EMAIL Address: _____	Student ID#: _____ Class Level: _____ Junior _____ Senior
Faculty Research Advisor(s) _____ Printed Name	
_____ Printed Name	

Approval Process for Honors Directed Research Project

1. Student will contact a School of Nursing faculty research advisor and negotiate a research project under the faculty member's supervision.

 Student's Signature Date

2. Faculty Research Advisor(s) agree(s) to supervise the project and confirms that the proposal meets the requirements listed in the "Guidelines for Honors Research/Thesis"

 Advisor's Signature Date

 Advisor's Signature Date

3. The proposal is submitted to the Coordinator of BS Program with student and faculty research preceptor signatures.

 Honors Program Coordinator Signature Date

4. Title of Thesis Project:
