Honors Program Overview

Pharm.D. students looking for educational stimulation and challenge beyond the traditional curriculum are invited to participate in the College’s Honors Program. This selective program challenges participants by introducing them to new ideas and placing them in contact with others of similar aptitude. Honors Program students participate in research projects with faculty mentors, and present their results at college seminars. Many of these students also present their results at national meetings and in peer-reviewed journal articles.

Coursework (Required unless indicated)
- PHR 151R Research Opportunities (recommended)
- PHR 167H Exploratory Research Rotation
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- PHR 278H Proposal Preparation
- PHR 478H Honors Project
- Any Honors Elective (1)

Progression – Normal

P1 Spring semester (optional)
- PHR 151R (Opportunities in Pharmaceutical Research)
  Students who have an interest in the Honors Program, the PharmD/PhD program or other research opportunities are encouraged to enroll in this course. Topics covered include: the ethical conduct of research, research tools, research opportunities, and topics in current pharmaceutical research. This course also includes a hands-on introduction to common pharmaceutical research techniques.

Summer P1-P2 year
- PHR 167H (Exploratory Research in Pharmacy)
  Students are required to complete two PHR 167H rotations before enrolling in PHR 278H (see below). Most students elect to do at least one PHR 167H rotation during the summer between the P1 and P2 year, and many students complete both required rotations over the summer. These PHR 167H rotations are meant to provide students with a representative experience of research under a given faculty member. Each exploratory rotation is 100 hrs of direct contact/lab experience or the equivalent. The purpose of these research rotations is to help the Honors student select a research area, a laboratory, and a faculty mentor. For faculty mentors that participate in graduate programs that require first-year graduate students to perform research rotations, these PHR 167H rotations should provide a similar experience for these pharmacy students.

June 20, 2014
P2 Fall
   PHR 167H (Exploratory Research in Pharmacy)
   Students who have not completed the two required PHR 167H during the summer can complete the remaining required rotations during the Fall semester.

P2 Spring
   278H (Honors Proposal Preparation)
   Students with Pharmacy GPA of 3.5 or higher and who have completed at least two PHR 167H research rotations are invited to join the Honors Program at the beginning of the Spring semester of the P2 year. Students are accepted into the program by the Honors Program-PharmD/PhD Program Oversight Committee Chair.
   The research component of the honors program consists of a proposal writing stage when the student is selecting a research project, reading background material, and writing the project proposal. Students that have been accepted into the Honors Program enroll in the PHR 278H course while completing this first proposal writing stage. Students enrolled in PHR 278H must submit their proposal to the Honors Program-PharmD/PhD Oversight Committee by the end of the Spring semester of the P2 year.

Summer P2-P3 year
   Many Honors Program students carry out research during the summer between the P2 and P3 year. Although there is no required course for this research experience, students find it much easier to complete the PHR 479H course in the Fall if they have at least begun their projects over the summer. Students may enroll in a Special Problems course to receive academic credit for summer research.

P3 Fall
   479H (Honors Thesis)
   After completing the PHR 278H course, Honors students continue to conduct research — most of the actual research work for an Honors Project will typically be performed during the Summer and Fall of the P3 year. In the Fall of the P3 year, honors students enroll in PHR 479H and complete their Honors Project final reports (Thesis).

P3 Spring
   All Honors Program students are required to present their work in the PHR 151R course. Some students elect to delay completion of their Thesis until the Spring semester (and thus receive a grade of “X” in the PHR 479H course in the Fall). Others complete the PHR 478H thesis, but present their seminar in the Spring. In either case, the final written Project Report (Thesis) and Seminar MUST be completed by the end of the Spring semester of the P3 year.
   Students completing the Honors Program must complete one honors elective course. Those who have not already done so by the Spring P3 semester must complete this course at this time. A wide variety of electives are available. PHR 280V: Communication skills (a fall elective) is recommended. It is designed to introduce you to scientific writing and prepare you to present a seminar. The course work in the honors program will satisfy all of the courses necessary to fulfill the professional elective requirement for the degree.
P4 Spring

Students who have successfully completed all requirements of the Honors Program and who have a Pharmacy GPA of 3.0 or higher will graduate with Special Honors.

Progression – Late-Entry

A late-entry option is available to students who decide to join the Honors Program at the end of the P2 year. This option is particularly geared towards Co-op students and students with P3 sites other than Austin.

Summer P2-P3 year

PHR 167H rotations

Students in the late entry option must complete a minimum of two PHR 167H rotations before the end of the summer between the P2 and P3 year. Any PHR 167H rotations successfully completed prior to this time (e.g., during summer P1-P2) can be applied to this requirement. If the late-entry option is being pursued at a non-Austin site, at least one of these PHR 167H rotations must be completed with a faculty member at that site.

Fall P3 year

PHR 278H (Honors Proposal Preparation)

Students who completed the required PHR 167H rotations prior to the Fall P3 semester, and who have maintained a pharmacy GPA of 3.5 or greater can enroll in the PHR 278H course during the Fall P3 year. These students must complete their Honors Program proposal and submit it to the Oversight Committee before the end of the Fall semester.

Spring P3 Year

PHR 479H (Honors Thesis)

Students who completed the required PHR 278H proposal course in the Fall of P3 enroll in the PHR 479H course in the Spring. These students must complete their Thesis and present their projects in the PHR 151R course before the end of the Spring semester.

Students completing the late-entry Honors Program must complete one honors elective course. Those who have not already done so by the Fall P3 semester must complete this course at this time. A wide variety of electives are available. PHR 280V: Communication skills (a fall elective) is recommended. It is designed to introduce you to scientific writing and prepare you to present a seminar. The course work in the honors program will satisfy all of the courses necessary to fulfill the professional elective requirement for the degree.

P4 Spring

Students who have successfully completed all requirements of the Honors Program and who have a Pharmacy GPA of 3.0 or higher will graduate with Special Honors.