

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE WITH HONORS

There are three levels of honors: cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. Only students who are in good academic standing and have no Student Conduct Code or any type of academic dishonesty violations are eligible to graduate with an honors distinction at any level. Students from any college track meeting honors prerequisites are eligible to be considered for honors with the exception of post-baccalaureate students, who are ineligible. General information and additional college requirements for each level are described below.

CUM LAUDE

You will graduate cum laude if you:

- Have maintained appropriate student conduct
- Have achieved at least a 3.5 junior-senior GPA by graduation. (Honors GPA is based only on 3000 level or higher courses taken after entry to the limited access junior level BHS program.)
- Have no incompletes at the time of graduation. (Failing grades in the junior-senior year may also be taken into account.)

There are no additional requirements.

MAGNA AND SUMMA CUM LAUDE

In order to graduate magna or summa cum laude, you must maintain appropriate student conduct, must apply and be accepted into and complete all requirements of the college honors program, and must have a minimum 3.75 honors GPA at graduation.

How To Apply To The Magna/Summa Honors Program: During fall semester of the junior year (typically in October), BHS juniors receive an e-mail from Dr. Hanson, Executive Associate Dean, or her representative. This e-mail explains how and when to apply to be considered for the college honors program. Typically, you must submit a statement (maximum one-page, double-spaced typed) regarding your interest. Students submitting this statement after the deadline will not be considered so it is important to respond quickly if interested in the college honors program. Your statement and academic record will be reviewed, and you will be e-mailed with a decision regarding your eligibility and selection for the honors program. You must meet all prerequisites to be eligible for consideration. The prerequisites are shown below.

Prerequisites For Magna And Summa Cum Laude Program:

- You must be enrolled as a junior in the limited access portion of the Bachelor of Health Science program in the College of PHHP
- You must have a freshman-sophomore cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, and your individual grades must be strong (incompletes, withdrawals, and low grades can

all be taken into account when determining admission to the college honors program)

- You must be in good academic standing and have an anticipated junior-senior GPA of at least 3.75 by the time of graduation
- You must apply to the honors program by the deadline in Fall semester of your junior year. (You are ineligible in your senior year.)
- You must be accepted into the College honors program

What Happens Once I Am Admitted: If you are admitted to the honors program, you will be registered for the Honors Seminar (HSC 4969) by a college advisor. There is no other sign up required. The seminar is a 2-credit course offered in spring of the junior year only. You must complete the seminar to be eligible to continue in the honors program and participate in HSC 4970, the honors thesis course, for which the Dean's Office will also register you. It is during HSC 4970 that your potential honors level will be determined (magna or summa) and you will complete your honors project.

General Information about HSC 4970: It is anticipated that by the end of HSC 4969, you will have identified your faculty mentor and outlined the basic ideas for your honors project. These ideas will be reflected on a written project agreement between you and your mentor, entitled the *Honors Thesis Project Agreement*. This agreement must also be approved by the Dean's Office. You will then begin work on your project in the summer term immediately following successful completion of the Honors Seminar. A Dean's Office advisor will register you for three credits of HSC 4970 in the Summer term immediately following successful completion of the Honors Seminar. (Students who need to begin their projects in Fall rather than Summer must have the explicit permission of the Dean's Office as Fall project initiation is by exception only.)

In subsequent semesters, you will be registered automatically by a Dean's Office advisor based on the number of credits noted on the *Honors Thesis Project Agreement*. You must complete at least 6 credits of thesis work, although many students complete up to 9 credits, which can be spread over 2 to 3 semesters. As part of your requirements, you must produce a research poster based on your project, which you will present at the college research fair, typically held in late spring. In addition, all students produce a final written product to be approved by both their faculty mentor and the dean. You will continue to register for HSC 4970 until your final product is completed and approved.

How Is Magna Versus Summa Determined: At the end of the Summer term immediately following the Honors Seminar, you will submit a detailed honors project proposal based on the work you have already begun. This proposal will be reviewed by the BHS Honors Thesis Proposal Review Committee. This committee will determine whether you will be placed on the magna or summa track. All requirements of the two tracks are the same with the exception of the final product. The final product for students in the magna track is a research project summary, approximately 5 pages in length, and the final product for students in the summa track is a thesis, approximately 20 pages in length.

Please consult the Honors Thesis syllabus for details regarding project requirements. A summary of the general requirements for magna and summa cum laude is presented below.

Requirements To Graduate Magna Or Summa Cum Laude:

- **Professional Conduct:** No Student Conduct Code violations; no academic dishonesty violations
- **GPA** (based on 3000+ level coursework after junior entry): 3.75
- **Courses** (you must complete each course with a minimum grade of C or S):
 - **Junior Year (Spring): HSC 4969 College Honors Seminar** (2 credits)- learn about research and develop a research project
 - **Senior Year (Summer, Fall, Spring): HSC 4970 College Honors Thesis** - minimum of 6 credits, which includes satisfactorily:
 1. completing an independent research project
 2. creating a poster and presenting it at the college research fair
 3. producing a written product (executive summary for magna and longer thesis for summa) approved by the PPHP faculty supervisor and dean

OTHER INFORMATION

- HSC 4969 hours are **not applied** towards college elective credit but can be applied towards general elective credit.
- Three credits of thesis hours, HSC 4970, **are applied** toward the 9-hour college elective requirement.
- If you are unable to complete your project or any accompanying requirements or do not acquire the necessary GPA, any earned HSC 4970 credits will be changed from thesis hours to independent study hours (HSC 4905) with no effect on the grade.
- You will receive credit for the completed Seminar even if you decide not to complete a thesis.
- Just a reminder that the Honors GPA is calculated based on the last 60 hours of coursework that is 3000 or higher taken in the junior and senior years (since entering the BHS program). Courses taken prior to junior level college entry are not considered, even if they are 3000 or 4000 level courses. 2000 level courses taken in the junior and senior years are not used in the honors GPA. (It is possible for a student to have fewer than 60 hours upon which the honors GPA is calculated if he or she completed 3000 level coursework as a freshman or sophomore.)