

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
Honors Program

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Introduction

The purpose of the Honors program is to encourage scholarly initiative and in-depth investigation within a limited area of nutrition and dietetics. Honors work provides a student with opportunities to plan and carry out scientific research under the direction of a faculty member. Skills are developed in literature review, research methods, analysis of results, and written and oral presentation of a research project.

Overview

- 1) Majors in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics who have attained at least a 3.5 overall GPA and a 3.8 GPA in their major courses at the end of the fall semester of their junior year may take either NUTR 393 (Research methods - 1 credit) **or** NUTR 491 (Independent Study – 1 credit) during the spring of their junior year. In these courses students will work individually with a faculty mentor to develop a research or service learning project at the graduate level. A completed project proposal will be due on the last day of classes of the spring term. The proposal must be approved by department faculty for continuation in the department honors program.
- 2) Students whose proposals are approved may enroll in a total of 4 - 5 credits of NUTR 422: Senior Research and/or NUTR 497,498 during their senior year. Students must take at least two credits each semester of their senior year. To earn honors in the department of nutrition and dietetics the student's work in NUTR 422, 497 and 498 must merit a grade of A.

Practical Guidelines

1. If you are interested in the Honors Program, your first step is to talk with your academic advisor to make sure that you meet the criteria described below.
2. Individual faculty members in the Department work with only one or two Honors students in any given year. However, all faculty are encouraged to direct Honors projects so you should be able to find an Honors advisor
3. You are expected to develop your own idea for a project that interests you. You shouldn't expect your Honors advisor to present you with a project idea.
4. Honors projects do not have to be tied to the research work or interests of your Honors advisor. You may be able to work on a project with someone at Hershey Medical Center, Hershey Foods, etc., although you will still need an Honors

advisor in the Department of Natural Sciences.

5. Remember that Honors work is a privilege and is not for everyone; expectations and standards are high so will need to be highly motivated and you should expect to work hard. Your Honors advisor works with you only as an advisor and will not be doing any of the work on your project for you.

Requirements and Procedures

1. To qualify for an Honors Program, the student must have completed five semesters in the major and must have at least a 3.5 overall GPA and a 3.8 GPA in major courses.
2. Application for the Honors Program is made during the Fall semester of the Junior year with assistance from the student's academic advisor. The application should include a statement of the reason for doing Honors work, the area of research that the student wishes to pursue, and the name of the faculty member who will be your Honors advisor. A statement from the Honors advisor that he or she supports the application and is willing to act as the student's advisor must accompany the application. The application is presented to the Department for approval by the student's academic advisor.
3. If accepted into the Honors Program, the student begins by taking NUTR 393 Research Methods or NUTR 491: Independent Study during Spring semester of the junior year. These courses focus on research methodology including advanced literature searching, experimental design, and modeling. A thesis proposal is an important outcome of this course. This proposal must be approved by department faculty for continuation in the department honors program.
4. Five Major Honors credits are taken in the senior year, 2-3 credits in Fall semester and 2-3 credits in Spring semester. This is when the actual research project is done. Students must receive departmental approval after the fall semester to continue their work during the spring semester. Recommendations for grades in Honors courses and requests for approval for the student to continue in the Honors program are presented to the Department by the student's Honors advisor.
5. Students are expected to spend three hours per credit per week, or a total of 40 hours per credit per semester, doing Honors work. Procedures for keeping time logs, laboratory notebooks, etc. will be worked out with the Honors advisor.
6. College policy specifies that only the grades of 'A' and 'B' carry credit in honors courses. In the event the student receives less than an 'A', but at least a B in the first Major Honors course, the student may continue to do research (with their

faculty mentor's support) by enrolling in NUTR 422 Senior Research.

7. After the research project is completed, the student is required to write a paper in the style and format established by the Honors advisor. The student is also required to present a seminar on the project for members of the Division of Natural Sciences (faculty and students). This will typically be done during the spring SOHNS research symposium.
8. If the student has earned a grade of 'A' for all Honors work AND has maintained a GPA of 3.50 or above, he or she will receive Department Honors at graduation. In addition, Honors will be noted on the final transcript and the diploma.

III. Statement of Support from Faculty Honors Advisor:

Signature

Date