Public Health Honors Track

**Purpose:** The Public Health Honors Program trains students to conduct sustained, supervised research in topics and practices pertaining to the field of Public Health. Public Health Honors students work closely with a faculty mentor, take Honors and Public Health courses, present their research proposals and finished research at the Honors semester-end forum/symposium, and write an Honors thesis based on their research/Applied Learning Experience.

**To apply:** Students must first declare and be accepted into the Public Health undergraduate (BA) program, then apply to the Honors program AFTER consultation with the Public Health undergraduate advisor.

- Note: Students will need a signed departmental approval form (to be found on the Honors website “Forms” page, from the Public Health undergraduate advisor as part of the Honors application material.

**Requirements/Coursework:**

1. **HON 491 - Interdisciplinary Junior Honors Seminar:** 3 credits
   a. This course is an interdisciplinary, upper-division, Writing Intensive course. Topics vary from semester to semester depending on instructor.
   b. Students may petition to waive this course (no credits will be counted) if they have a study abroad experience, take a graduate course, take an approved 400-level seminar course (i.e. PH 410- Introduction to Epidemiology (W), PH 411- Nutrition and Disease Prevention, PH 420- Social Behavioral Health I: Health Education & Health Promotion, PH 440- Health Policy and Management), have a research or internship experience (outside of the Applied Learning Experience), or received the Sophomore Honors award as a Selected Studies Honors student.

2. **HON 495 - Introduction to Research** or **PH 480 - Application of PH Principles:** 3 credits
   a. This course is focused on the shaping of a research proposal and its presentation.
   b. At the end of this semester, students are required to present their research proposals at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium.
   c. Students must have their projects approved by the Public Health undergraduate advisor and the Public Health B.A. Chair to ensure that projects fulfill the requirements of the major.
   d. Students must have a faculty mentor for their project by the end of the semester
      i. If a student chooses a faculty mentor who is from outside the Public Health department (e.g. JABSOM, Nursing, etc.), the Public Health undergraduate advisor must approve the mentor to ensure that s/he is aware of the requirements of the Public Health department and that s/he is qualified to advise the student on the proposed project.
      ii. A form allowing outside faculty mentors needs to be signed by the Public Health undergraduate advisor and submitted to the Honors program.
e. Regardless of the coursework that the student takes to fulfill this requirement for Honors, the student is still required to present his/her research proposal at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium.

3. **HON 496 - Senior Honors Project or PH 485 - PH Applied Learning Experience** or **PH 489 - PH Undergraduate Capstone Seminar**: 6 credits (2 semesters) or any combination of the above
   a. Students work independently with their faculty mentor/advisor on their research and in the writing of their thesis.
   b. Students taking their first 3 credits of HON 496 or PH 485 must also attend the HON 496 workshop to keep abreast of Upper Division Honors requirements, announcements and program deadlines. Workshop times are listed on the course schedule.
   c. Students will consult with their faculty mentor/advisor and their committee members (two additional) over the course of the research, ideally culminating in a final conversation for feedback on a completed rough draft approximately 5 weeks prior to the end of the last semester.
   d. At the end of the second 3 credits of HON 496 or PH 489, students present their research at the Fall Forum or Spring Symposium and submit their finished Senior Honors Project to the Honors Program.