



## **School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene Honors Track**

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### **Introduction**

The School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH) and the Honors Program offer an outstanding, research-focused educational experience for qualified students who wish to enhance their undergraduate education and prepare for further research activity and academic study after graduation.

Students enrolled in the SONDH Honors track have the opportunity to investigate a topic of interest to them and to work closely with an Honors Project faculty mentor to enhance their understanding of the research process. Under the guidance of an approved faculty mentor, the SONDH Honors student designs, implements, and reports on findings from a research study of their choosing. Upon graduation, the student who has completed the requirements for the Honors program earns a BS degree with Honors (noted on transcript and diploma).

This program is ideal for students who love to read and write, enjoy working independently, are interested in research, and want to work closely with a faculty member who shares their intellectual interests. Because the focus of the Honors track is a mentored research project, students best suited for the program are those who are interested in exploring this aspect of nursing and dental hygiene practice.

**Note:** *Because of the specialized nature of the SONDH undergraduate curriculum, the requirements of the Honors program for SONDH students, including admission requirements and course requirements, are unique to our students. Students who participate in an approved research course through the Summer Study Abroad Program will be allowed to substitute this experience for the lower-division Honors courses requirements. Honors A-section courses (e.g. ENG 100A, PSY 100A) may fulfill GenEd requirements for undergraduates in SONDH.*

***Upper Division Honors courses required by the broader UH Honors Track (except for HON 494) are covered within the nursing curriculum and are NOT required for nursing students in the Honors program.***

*Prospective nursing students interested in the SONDH Honors Track should review this description of the program in depth and if interested should make an appointment with Dr. Alice Tse, the SONDH Nursing Honors Track Advisor.*

### **Requirements for the Department of Nursing Honors Track:**

1. GPA- A cumulative GPA of 3.2 is required for entry into the SONDH Honors track, and students are expected to maintain a GPA  $\geq 3.2$  for the entirety of their time in the Honors Program.

2. Students who are in the Honors Program in general but wish to continue in the SONDH track must still be accepted into the SONDH program to continue in the SONDH Honors track.
3. When to apply:
  - a. Applications to the SONDH Honors track are accepted **no later** than the end of third semester, by December 1 of junior year). **Only students accepted into a SONDH major may apply for the SONDH Honors track. Acceptance into Honors does not mean acceptance into the SONDH Honors track.**
4. How to apply:
  - a. Completion of the Honors Program's online application and recommendation form, and an interview with the Honors Track Advisor.
  - b. Interview-Students applying for acceptance into the Honors Program **must** complete an interview with Dr. Alice Tse to discuss their plan for Honors.
  - c. After admission to the SONDH Honors track, the SONDH Honors Track Advisor will complete the Departmental Approval Form via Honors Mākālei.
5. Program requirements: SONDH students are expected to complete the following:
  - a. 3 semesters of mentored work on their Honors Project, under the guidance of a faculty mentor from the SONDH (Note: course credit via NURS 481 and DEN 499 study is offered for each semester of Honors study).
  - b. Submission of 10-12 page written Honors Project proposal, and completion of Honors project/mentor form via Honors Mākālei (Semester 4)
  - c. IRB application and approval for the project research (if applicable).
  - d. HON 494 (zero credits, first four weeks of class/50 minutes a week): semester after proposal is submitted (Semester 5)
  - e. Addition of one committee member in addition to the faculty mentor to form a two-person Honors Committee to oversee mentorship and evaluation of the Honors project
    - i. Students must submit their Honors committee names and contact information on Honors Mākālei
  - f. Presentation of final project at the UH Undergraduate Showcase
  - g. Submission of SONDH Honors project on Honors Mākālei

Students accepted directly into SONDH as first year students are eligible for the SONDH Honors track if they meet GPA requirements.

All questions about application to and participation in the School of Nursing Honors Program should be directed to Dr. Alice Tse at [atse@hawaii.edu](mailto:atse@hawaii.edu). Oversight of the SONDH Honors Program is provided by the Honors Track Advisor in collaboration with the Associate Dean for Research, the Prelicensure Curriculum and Program development Committee and the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee.