

HONORS COLLEGE CAPSTONES IN NURSING

The Honors College capstone can be fulfilled by College of Nursing in one of several ways outlined below. Many students will select the third option of developing their capstone around research topics they have worked on as part of **NUSC 322 Introduction to Nursing Research and Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice**, an upper level structured research course that allows students to develop a theoretical topic of interest, write a short research summary paper, and present their work in a poster presentation. However, any of these options are good ones for developing strong analytical skills, an aptitude for scholarly writing, and the ability to present scholarship in a public forum, all of which are key to the Honors College Capstone requirement.

The three options are as follows:

(1) Students may develop their own research projects on topics related to health and the nursing profession, obtain a Nursing faculty supervisor for their project, and secure the approval of their Honors College Faculty Fellow. Following the general guidelines for the Honors College Capstone (found at <http://www.uic.edu/honors/learning/capstone.shtml>),

students should choose a theoretical topic of interest, engage in research that is either library-based or with some applied component (such as interviews of nursing professionals, observations in nursing settings, etc.), produce a scholarly paper of around 15-20 pages on their topic, and present their project in a public forum (e.g. the Student Research Forum, the Honors College Student Research Symposium, an academic conference, or in a scholarly setting at the College of Nursing) in poster format or other format (e.g. powerpoint presentation, lecture). Students should enroll in HON 322 for two semesters, focusing the first semester on the research and the second semester on writing the Capstone research paper. The public presentation may be done in either semester.

(2) Students may use work as a research assistant on a faculty research project to write up their own theoretical and methodological contributions to the project, as well as their own evaluation of the results, in a scholarly paper of around 15-20 pages, and present their project in a public forum (the above venues). Because these types of projects are completed as part of a research team, students can use public presentations of joint work by the research team as fulfilling their public presentation requirement *as long as the student is in attendance to answer questions along with the other members of the research team*. Students should enroll in HON 322 for two semesters, focusing the first semester on the research and the second semester on writing the Capstone research paper. The public presentation may be done in either semester.

(3) Students may complete their Honors College Capstone as an extension of their work in NUSC 322. ***Note that completion of the requirements of NUSC 322 is not in itself sufficient to meet the Honors College Capstone requirement***, as outlined below. Instead, research in NUSC 322 allows students to develop a research focus for their Capstone within a structured research course, background research that they can then expand into a more comprehensive exploration of a theoretical issue. In NUSC 322, students are

required to work in teams in which individuals evaluate a small number of articles concerning specific theoretical issues, writing individual critiques of the articles and their relevance to the research question. The larger group pool their knowledge and insights from the articles evaluated by individuals into a group presentation that summarizes the theoretical debate and how different scholars approached the research problem. To fulfill their Honors College capstone by building on work done in NUSC 322, students should select additional articles and scholarly publications relevant to their research issue and provide a more in depth analysis of the research issue (.for example, a project on what factors affect neonatal care in rural areas of the U.S. would presumably focus on a variety of social, economic, geographic, and technological factors and include an extended discussion of the student's evaluation of scholars' claims that one factor is more significant than others). *Students should prepare a scholarly paper of 15-20 pages on their research topic, largely reflecting their individual work on the research issue rather than the work of their NUSC 322 research group. However, students may use their NUSC 322 seminar presentation to fulfill the "public presentation" portion of the Honors College Capstone. NOTE that the HON 322 capstone is a two-semester sequence. Therefore, students pursuing the option of using their NUSC 322 work as the starting point for their Honors College Capstone are advised to complete their NUSC 322 work in the Fall semester as fulfilling their first semester of HON 322. They should register for HON 322 again in the Spring and use that semester to complete the 15-20 page research paper developed out of their NUSC 322 topic.*

The option students choose to complete their Honors College Capstone and the specific research topic they select should always be done in consultation with their Capstone supervisor and their Honors College Fellow, who must approve the Capstone Proposal. Students should turn in a **Capstone Proposal and Registration form** (available on the web link above) *at the end of the fourth week of each semester*, approved by their supervisor and Fellow. Students who need more time in developing their capstone proposal should contact the Honors College to obtain an extension in submitting this form.