**HONORS IN RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The **Honors in Research Program** isan optional research training opportunity that enables Medical Student Summer Research trainees to extend their summer research experience forward throughout their education program with the goal of: 1) exploring additional aspects of their project that potentially may generate new data or add knowledge to their investigation, and 2) further enhancing their overall research exposures. Students who satisfactorily complete the Honors requirements will be recognized at graduation with the ***M.D. with Honors in Research Distinction***ontheir diploma, and with Honors in Research on their transcript.

**Who is eligible?** The Honors option is open to MCW medical students who participated in the formal Medical Student Summer Research Training Program for 8 -11 weeks, supervised by MCW faculty investigators. However, participation in the Medical Student Summer Research Training Program alone does not automatically guarantee approval for the Honors program.

Students participating in research programs away from MCW or outside the auspices of the Medical Student Summer Research Training Program are not eligible to apply.

**What are the requirements?** Students must: 1) complete a total of 16 weeks of mentored research training on one project, including the weeks spent during the summer research program; and 2) submit an original manuscript with the *student as first author or joint first author* with documentation indicating *submission* in a peer-reviewed journal by November 1 of the M4 year. \* Reviews are not counted as manuscripts. The Honors project must be an extension of, or very closely related to, the original summer research project.  Time spent writing the manuscript does not count toward the 16-week requirement.  Additionally, Honors candidates must maintain a satisfactory academic record throughout the medical education program.

\*This is a new requirement beginning with students participating during summer 2018.

Additionally, Honors candidates must maintain a satisfactory academic record throughout the medical education program. The preceptor/mentor must be a full-time MCW faculty member and must provide a letter of support for the applicant at the time of application and a letter verifying the completion of the training at the time the Honors manuscript is submitted (see additional information below).

**When can I complete the additional lab time?** Approved honors candidates who complete 11 weeks of research during the summer may complete the additional training time by taking the \*4-week, graded Honors in Research elective during the M3 year or in the months of July or August only of the M4 year, plus one week of personal time or noncore Pathways time. For students completing only 8 or 10 weeks of training during the summer, the additional 6 or 8 weeks of required lab time may be completed in a combination of the 4-week Honors in Research elective, as described above, plus noncore Pathway time and personal time. The student must provide a plan for completing the time as part of the Honors proposal.

Time spent on research following the completion of the summer program (including noncore Pathway time), but prior to obtaining approval, will not count retroactively toward the 16-weeks honors requirement; therefore, students are advised to apply for Honors as soon as possible following the conclusion of the summer research training.

\* Enrollment in the M3 or M4 Honors elective is subject to the policies of the Registrar’s Office.

The learning activities are determined by the research preceptor and the student. The preceptor completes the standard third-year evaluation currently used for graded electives. Students are graded on the standard five-point grading scale.

**What are the application requirements?** The Honors application must include the following:

For the original project:

* Explain the background and scientific significance of the original project.
* State the hypothesis and original specific aims.
* Briefly explain how they were achieved (methods).
* Briefly describe the results of the original project.
* Briefly describe your role on the research project.
* How many weeks were completed during the summer?
* Did you publish or present this work?

For the Honors project:

* Explain the background and scientific significance of the Honors project.
* State the new hypothesis and the new specific aims.
* Discuss how the Honors project extends or enhances the original project.
* Briefly describe the anticipated methods.
* Briefly explain your role on the extended project.  (What are the specific plans with timelines for publishing the findings from this study?)
* Do you anticipate publishing or presenting as a result of the extended research? (What is necessary to accomplish during the honors stage that will facilitate a first author paper?)
* Explain how/when the additional training time will be fulfilled (e.g. research elective, pathways time, on nights/weekends with specifics). (Explain how you will spend your time (e.g. research elective.....copy from above...) to facilitate publishing/submission of paper? Include details of what type of journal this study will be submitted to for publication?)

For the Faculty Preceptor/Mentor:

Preceptors must provide a letter of support demonstrating their willingness to mentor their Honors applicant throughout the added training and manuscript writing process. Mentor letter should highlight plans for paper submission and how this process will be managed with the student to ensure timely completion of this task. The letter should also clearly indicate the student’s and preceptor’s roles in the project, as well as how the student will be involved in the overall research environment and will interact with the preceptor.

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Both the initial summer project and the subsequent research elective need to be reviewed and approved before the actual research is performed. No research completed after the summer project period will count for the Honors program unless the Honors application has already been approved. Completion of work not previously approved will not be considered as in compliance with this policy.

The submission of a manuscript encompassing the entire 16 weeks of research is required by November 1 of the M4 year. The actual writing of the manuscript is not considered to be a part of the 16 weeks of research time. The manuscript will be reviewed by the Honors Committee and must be approved by February 1 of the M4 year in order for the M.D. with Research Distinction to be awarded at graduation and noted on the diploma and transcript. The preceptor must verify that the student has completed the 16-week laboratory requirement upon submission of the manuscript.