

University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Guidelines for Honors Thesis Study Course (PHRD 7805)
(Approved by the Honors Program Committee on November 15, 2012)

These guidelines should be used by students in the Honors Program and their SSPPS faculty project mentors pursuing the use of two elective credits toward their project. **Students must already be accepted into the Honors Program before starting the Honors Thesis Study Course.** The Honors Thesis Study Course credit can be used to replace elective course credit for Doctor of Pharmacy students to fulfill the graduation requirement of elective credit hours. An Honors Thesis Study Course application should be submitted to the chair of the Honors Committee by May 1 for summer semester, August 1 for fall semester, or December 1 for spring semester. Applications submitted after these deadlines are not guaranteed to be reviewed or approved before the anticipated start of the Honors Thesis Study Course. Approval must be obtained from the Honors Committee prior to enrolling a student in the Honors Thesis Study Course. Similar to elective courses, the Honors Thesis Study Course are intended to be completed within one semester. However, they may extend two semesters. Consistent with SSPPS policy, when Honors Thesis Study Course credit is being applied towards the elective credit requirement needed for graduation, the Honors Thesis Study Course must be successfully completed prior to students starting the P4 year.

Honors Thesis Study Course applications should fulfill the following criteria:

1. **Submission** - Applications must be submitted for approval by the SSPPS faculty member who will serve as the supervising faculty member. It is anticipated that the faculty member supervising the Honors Thesis Study Course will be the same individual supervising the student's Honors Program project. Applications comprise completed approval (Honors Thesis Study Course Approval Form) and proposal (Honors Thesis Study Course Proposal Form) documents, both found on the school's web site.

2. **Proposal** - The proposal form represents a "mini-syllabus" that should not exceed 4 pages in length, and must include the following information in this order:

a) The Honors Thesis Study Course title, name of student, name of the supervising SSPPS faculty member who will advise the student, name of other key individuals, and the date of submission

b) Statement of the goal(s) of the Honors Thesis Study Course as it relates to the overall project

c) A list of specific learning outcomes to be met by the student. These outcomes must be well defined and measurable by the supervising faculty member. It is anticipated that the primary ability-based outcome that will be addressed by the Honors Thesis Study Course is

- I. Apply basic and clinical scientific principles and methods to identify and solve problems
 - Formulate a relevant and significant question or hypothesis
 - Develop a strategy or method to answer the question or hypothesis
 - Analyze available information to answer the question or reformulate hypothesis
 - Provide evidence based solutions that most effectively answers the question or hypothesis

Additional outcomes are available on the SSPPS website at

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/pharmacy/AcademicPrograms/PharmDProgram/ProfessionalCurriculum/Pages/AbilityBasedOutcomesColorado14.aspx>.

d) A description of the assessments that will be used to determine student achievement of each learning outcome. A description of what represents a pass for each assessment is required. Note: Honors Thesis Study Courses are graded as pass or fail only.

e) An estimate of time to be devoted to the course (hours/week) and total duration of the Honors Thesis Study Course. Honors Thesis Study Courses are 2 credit hours and the total time commitment should be 60 to 90 contact hours.

3. **Summary report** - After the student has completed the Honors Thesis Study Course, the faculty supervisor is required to submit a brief (1 – 2 paragraphs) description of the student's progress toward completion of the Honors Program project, the contribution of the Honors Thesis Study Course to the project, and a plan / timeline to complete the project.

4. **Course Assessment** - The Honors Thesis Study Course will be assessed using CoursEval® at the end of the semester it was completed. This course is pass / fail and will be assessed based on the successful completion of the learning objectives within two consecutive semesters.

5. **Exclusions** - The following cannot be used for credit in an Honors Thesis Study Course: (i) work for which the student is receiving payment as part of an internship, work study or other type of employment and ii) students not accepted into the Honors Program. Finally, if any travel is part of the Honors Thesis Study Course, the student may not be reimbursed *via* the school or campus student professional development or travel programs which are devoted solely to support of extracurricular activities.