

## THESIS OPTION FOR BSPS HONORS STUDENTS

### INTRODUCTION

A research project is an alternative experience to classroom learning. Research in the pharmaceutical sciences provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore biomedical topics from a hands-on perspective in the following areas within the College of Pharmacy: Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, and Pharmacy Practice & Administration.

Research projects in the College of Pharmacy cover such areas as the synthesis and isolation of novel drug candidates, explanation of drug action in animal and cell culture models, development of new drugs and delivery systems, and determination of drug metabolism. Research must be completed for course credit by registering for Pharmacy 4998.

*Students are required to be in the Honors Program to Graduate with Distinction and Honors.* In addition, students are required to have a 3.5 cumulative GPA and six Honors or upper-division (6000-level and above) courses completed over the first three years of enrollment at Ohio State. Students need to complete an original research project under the direction of a faculty member selected by the student. Students should participate in research for at least two semesters with an average commitment of two to three credit hours of Pharmacy 4998 per semester (six to nine lab hours/week). This research should be started prior to Fall of a student's final year. In addition, students should complete the Midpoint Review, written report (Thesis) and Oral defense of research before a three member faculty panel. The written Thesis should be submitted to the student's committee at least one week in advance of the defense. The Oral defense should be scheduled three weeks in advance of the actual presentation. All related paperwork should be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs at least two weeks in advance of when grades are due and/or graduation for graduating seniors. The final requirement is online submission of the thesis to the Knowledge Bank (kb.osu.edu).

### REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the thesis portion of the BSPS Honors program, the following requirements must be met:

- Students should explore ideas for research by talking with faculty at any time. The optimal time to choose a research advisor and work with him/her on an original project is after a student completes two semesters of course work at the University level and prior to Fall Semester of a student's final year. This project must be completed under the direction of a faculty member (Assistant Professor or higher). The faculty member may be outside of the College of Pharmacy, but such projects are subject to approval by the College of Pharmacy Honors Committee. Students should participate in research for at least two semesters with an average commitment of two to three credit hours of Pharmacy 4998 per semester (six to nine lab hours/week).
- Midpoint review of progress will be conducted by a committee of three faculty members consisting of the research advisor, another member of the Division in which the student is performing his/her work, and a representative of the Honors Committee. The review will be in the form of a brief (30 – 40 minute) meeting between the committee and the candidate at any time during the beginning of the second semester of work to discuss the project. Students should be prepared to give a 15 – 20 minute presentation as part of this review. For interdisciplinary projects, faculty may be selected from multiple divisions, as appropriate. There is no paperwork to submit upon completion of this review, however, students should contact both the Director of the Honors Committee and the Honors Advisor in the Office of Student Affairs to let them know the Midpoint Review has been completed.
- Completion of a written honors thesis (10 – 15 pages in length) describing the research conducted.
- Oral defense of the research before the faculty committee described above. The oral defense must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance of the presentation. Note: there are forms to submit before and after this presentation.
- Completion of all paperwork for the thesis and submission according to specified deadlines, to the Office of Student Affairs in 150 Parks Hall.