Public Health Departmental Honors

Departmental Honors (DH) is an Advanced Scholarship track of the Commonwealth Honors College (CHC). Students may complete DH as part of the full CHC curriculum, which includes Honors General Studies, or they may complete DH alone. The following sections refer to common resources for students who wish to pursue Public Health Departmental Honors.

Departmental Honors Program Requirements and Application

Successful completion of the DH requirements with minimum grades of B (or as specified under the curriculum) and the submission of a properly formatted Honors Thesis or Project manuscript will result in the award of "Departmental Honors" on the student's academic transcript.

https://www.honors.umass.edu/dhreqs/public-health-sciences
http://www.honors.umass.edu/curriculum

Contacting Dr. Begay, the Departmental Honors Advisor
If you have any questions pertaining to Departmental Honors requirements, please contact the Public Health Honors Advisor, Dr. Michael E. Begay. You can email him at begay@schoolph.umass.edu with any questions you may have about departmental honors requirements, or making a public health class count for honors credit. During the fall 2013 semester, Dr. Begay holds office hours on Tuesdays/Thursdays 10AM – 12PM, or by appointment. Arnold House 323.

Petitioned Courses for the Commonwealth Honors College
For departmental honors, students are required to take public health honor courses (one any level, one 300-level or higher). Public health courses offered by UMass must already be an indicated Honors course on Spire in order to count towards this requirement. Although not any traditional undergraduate UMass non-honors courses can be petitioned for honors course recognition, other types of courses can. Courses that could get approved for honors are small in enrollment size (about 25 students), have regular interaction between professor and student, and be academically rigorous.

Possible eligibility:
- Non-UMass Amherst Five-College Courses
- UMass Amherst Graduate courses at the 500-level
  - Must be taught at the graduate level with graduate students enrolled and must be at least 3 credits to qualify
- Study Abroad Courses
  - Only one course from each semester abroad can be petitioned for honors.
    The course must be at least 3 credits with a minimum grade of a “B”
- National Student Exchange and Transfer Honor Courses

For details on petitioned courses, visit: https://www.honors.umass.edu/types-honors-courses#studyabroad
Steps for Completing a Petition for Exception

1. Complete a “Petition for Exception” form that can be found at https://www.honors.umass.edu/forms-and-documents

2. Have the course instructor sign the completed form (unless it is a study abroad course)

3. For courses related to Departmental Honors, bring the form along with supporting documents (i.e. course syllabus, title, level, credits, and grades) to Dr. Begay, Honors Program Director (contact information at the bottom of the page).

4. After Dr. Begay signs the form, take the form to the Commonwealth College Honors Advisor:
   Bloom Honors Advising Center, 201 Commonwealth Honors College
   Visit during drop in hours:
   Tuesday 2-4, Wednesday 10-12, Thursday 10-12, Friday 2-4
   Phone: 413-545-2483

*The Commonwealth Honors College Director will make the final decision for approval*

Adding a Honors Colloquium

This can be done any time until Add/Drop

Colloquia are worth 1 credit and are meant to challenge and stimulate students in a creative way. These colloquia are in addition to an existing course. They are small group learning experiences and can range from 2 to 20 students. You must describe the content that you would like to study in the colloquium, how it will be conducted (such as discussions or experiments), and the criteria for grading. The deadline is before the Add/Drop period. The absolute latest is the mid-semester point of the registration semester. The 1-2 credit honors colloquium will be added as PUBHLTH 396.

1. Choose the course you would like to add a colloquium to.

2. Discuss your plan with a faculty member who will be the sponsor of the course you intend to add the colloquium to and plan details (meeting times, coursework, etc.).

3. Fill out a proposal for approval. This form can be found at: https://www.honors.umass.edu/forms-and-documents

4. If it is a public health course, Dr. Begay must sign the form before bringing to the Honors College

5. Return the form to the Commonwealth Honors College Office to Roland Packard

If you have questions, call, fax, or email the Honors Scheduling Representative:
tel: (413) 545-0136, fax: (413) 577-2620, rpackard@honors.umass.edu
Honors Thesis/Project
Thesis/Project Overview and Purpose
The honors thesis or project is 6 or more credits of your work on a single topic. It gives students the opportunity to work even more closely with faculty members and perform research or create new ideas. It is usually completed in students’ senior year and shows what skills you have learned during your undergraduate career.
https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience

Track Basics: There are two main ways to fulfill the honors thesis/project requirement. Regardless of the track, the thesis/project must be 6 credits of sustained effort on a single topic.

1. Independent Research
   • Individually arranged by student and faculty research committees using contract forms
   • Registration: 2 separate forms
     ○ 499Y Contract (For Fall semester of senior year)- Check website for due dates
     ○ 499 Thesis/Project Contract (For Spring semester senior year)- Check website for due dates
   • Complete proposal and bring it to Dr. Begay
   • If approved, bring it to the Honor’s Advisor.

2. Seminar Based (set courses)
   • Projects guided by instructors’ pre-approved syllabi and taught as a seminar
   • Registration: All on spire
   • Course guide is available at http://honorsapp.honors.umass.edu/courseguide/

3. For students enrolled in the Citizen Scholars Program, the final two courses will count as an honors thesis/project seminar. For more information about this program, visit: http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/public-health/undergraduate-degree-programacademic-advising/community-service-learning

Project and Manuscript Formatting
https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience-manuscript-content-formatting

Sample Capstone Timeline
https://www.honors.umass.edu/sample-capstone-timeline-faculty