

Honors in Nursing
Proposal

The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing (CELCON) respectfully submits the following proposal to create an Honors-in-the-Nursing Major within the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The goals of designing the Honors in Nursing program are to

- provide a highly select group of students with the opportunity to acquire research skills by conducting an independent study guided by a faculty mentor and presented in a written thesis format,
- increase student participation in original undergraduate research in the nursing discipline, and
- prepare students for a seamless transition into a PhD in Nursing Program for the role of nurse researcher and faculty. It is anticipated that students graduating from the honors program may choose to continue their studies in the BSN-PhD program at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) (<http://nursing.fau.edu/index.php?main=2&nav=650>).

Because nursing is now recognized as a STEM program, students need to seek opportunities in consultation with their faculty mentors to conduct or participate in original research. The Honors in Nursing Program culminates in a completed thesis and dissemination of the student's work.

I. Overview of the Honors in Nursing Program

The BSN program curriculum is 120 credit hours which will be maintained in the Honors in Nursing Program. Three new courses will be created – Honors I Seminar, Honors II Seminar, and Honors III Seminar. Honors I and II (3 credit hours each) will substitute for two university electives (6 credit hours); Honors III will substitute for NUR 4945 Evidence-Based Practice (2 credit hours) and NUR 4945L Evidence-Based Practice Capstone (1 credit hour). The plan-of-study is attached.

II. Targeted Population

The targeted population of students will be those accepted in the Freshman Direct Admit Track. Eligible students will apply to the Honors in Nursing Program in their sophomore spring semester with coursework beginning with their junior year. The Freshman Direct Admit Track was started in the 2014 fall semester. Students are admitted into this track following high school graduation in the spring semester immediately prior to entering FAU in the fall. As this track has stringent admission criteria, these students are highly motivated to continue earning advanced degrees in nursing. It is anticipated that the first cohort of students will be selected in summer 2016 to begin the Honors in Nursing Program in fall 2016.

III. Components Fulfilled in the Honors in Nursing Program

As stated in the FAU Honors Curriculum Manual, "Upper division honors programs at Florida Atlantic University should consist of at least four components" (2015, p. 7). The Honors in Nursing

Program fulfills all four components: entry requirements, standards for remaining in the program, honors level enrichment, and capstone requirement.

a. Entry Requirements: Admission to the Honors in Nursing Program

- i. Students will apply during the sophomore spring semester. After grades are processed, applications will be reviewed, essays scored, and decisions made.
- ii. Minimum criteria for application are:
 1. 3.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA)
 2. Successful completion of NUR 4165 Nursing Research with “A-“ or higher
 3. Competitive onsite essay according to attached rubric (Rubric A)
- iii. No more than approximately 20% of the Freshman Direct Admit cohort will be admitted. If more than 20% of the cohort qualify and apply to the honors in the major program, the top applicants will be selected based on the attached Admission Criteria Rubric with a maximum of 20% of the Freshman Direct Admit cohort selected (Rubric B).

b. Standards for Remaining in the Program: Progression criteria

- i. Students must maintain a cumulative 3.5 GPA throughout the program to progress.
 1. If less than C is earned in any course or the student’s cumulative GPA falls below 3.5, the student will be dismissed from the Honors in Nursing Program but will follow the CELCON progression requirements to complete the BSN program in the Freshman Direct Admit track.
- ii. Furthermore, violation of any of the following three components may be grounds for dismissal from the Honors in Nursing Program and the BSN program:
 1. the CELCON Professional Statement
<http://nursing.fau.edu/index.php?main=3&nav=753>,
 2. American Nurses Association’s Code of Ethics, and
 3. FAU’s Code of Academic Integrity.
- iii. If a student withdraws due to extenuating medical circumstances, he/she would be allowed to progress upon space available basis within both the BSN program and the Honors in Nursing Program.
- iv. If any students are dismissed, their slots will not be filled.

c. Honors Level Enrichment

The honors level enrichment is manifested in the development of two challenging courses providing a meaningfully richer academic experience: Honors Seminar I in Nursing (3 credits) and Honors Seminar II in Nursing (3 credits). Within both courses, students are to attend or participate in events offered by the CELCON (i.e. dissertation defenses, Sigma Theta Tau Iota Xi presentations, doctoral capstone presentations, Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry events).

- i. Honors Seminar I in Nursing Course Description: This course is the first of three courses in the Honors in Nursing Program. It focuses on building research skills required for scholarship, understanding how evidence and knowledge are developed, identifying gaps in the literature, formulating research questions, and conducting ethical research.
 1. Within Honors Seminar I, the course faculty facilitates the pairing of students and faculty mentors/chairs.
 2. Minimum of one participatory activity will be attended
- ii. Honors Seminar II in Nursing Course Description: This course is the second of three courses in the Honors in Nursing Program. Building upon NUR XXXX Honors Seminar I in Nursing, the student applies research skills in designing a Nursing research proposal.
 1. During the first couple weeks of Honors Seminar II, the student will add a faculty committee member
 2. At the end of Honors Seminar II or within the first couple weeks of Honors Seminar III, the student will defend the thesis proposal orally before peers and faculty mentors
 3. Minimum of one participatory activity will be attended

d. Capstone Requirement: Thesis

The thesis meets the capstone requirement. Honors III Seminar in Nursing is substituted for NUR 4945 Evidence-Based Practice and NUR 4945L Evidence-Based Practice Capstone with three variable credits. The variable credit is to be distributed over at least two semesters:

- i. Summer-1 credit, fall-1 credit, and spring-1 credit of senior year *or*
- ii. Fall-2 credits and spring-1 credit of senior year.
 1. One credit must be earned in the graduating spring semester.

The student will have one faculty mentor (chair) and one faculty committee member. The student will defend both the research proposal and the final thesis.

Honors Seminar III in Nursing course description: This is the third and final course in the Honors in Nursing Program. The student will conduct an approved independent research project under the direction of the faculty mentor. At the completion of the project, the student will submit a written paper and present the work in an oral or poster format.

At the end of Honors Seminar III, the student will defend the thesis orally before faculty and peers. The student shall publicly disseminate the results of his/her research through a poster or presentation at a conference or symposium or through submission of a manuscript to a research journal.

<i>Approved by:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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