

## **GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE NURSING HONORS PROJECT\***

The Undergraduate Nursing Honors Project is completed under the supervision of a faculty mentor and needs to be focused on research, ethics or leadership. Since most projects will involve human subjects, you will need to obtain approval from the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to the start of your research. Information about the process to obtain IRB approval is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/humanresearch/>. Your faculty mentor will assist you in the process of obtaining IRB approval.

Students should begin their honors projects prior to the start of upper division. In order to allot adequate time to the honors project, students are encouraged to sign up for an independent study with their faculty mentor. A 3 credit independent study (N347) may be used to satisfy the nursing elective degree requirement. You should plan to meet with your faculty mentor regularly to discuss your progress. Faculty mentors will provide guidance throughout your project and constructive criticism of your paper and presentation. Students must complete **all** honors program requirements by the end of their first semester of the senior year.

### **WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS**

At the completion of your Undergraduate Nursing Honors Project, you must turn in a written paper that has been approved by your faculty mentor. The paper should follow APA format and is limited to 30 pages including title page, abstract and references. The paper should include a clear introduction and conclusion. Although the contents of the paper will be determined in conjunction with your faculty sponsor, research papers are expected to address the standard components found in nursing research articles. You will need to utilize principles of good writing which includes clarity and appropriate use of grammar. Additionally, you will cite your sources of information in order to give credit for the ideas of others. Primary sources should be used for references when it is available.

You should expect to make revisions to the drafts of your paper based on feedback from the faculty mentor. When your faculty mentor judges your written paper to be completed and of high quality, he or she will approve your paper by signing the title page of your paper. A copy the approved paper with the signed title page and abstract will be turned in to the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs. Students are expected to submit their approved papers for publication.

## **PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the written requirements, students must also present their Undergraduate Nursing Honors Project in either a poster format or as an oral presentation. You may present your project at a pre-existing event (i.e., local, state or regional research conferences) or at a venue developed especially to showcase the honors projects. Your faculty mentor will provide feedback to you to ensure that you are adequately prepared for your presentation. You should expect to answer questions from the audience about your project.

\*Adapted from the Senior Thesis Manual for Plan II Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin.