

## PharmD Honors Research Program Requirements

- School of Pharmacy faculty mentor (who will also serve as the student's academic advisor)
- Completion of required Professional Elective (2 credits): Introduction to Research or Principles of Pharmacy Research.
- Completion of research plan of study developed with mentor, to include:
  - 8 or more research credits with a minimum grade of B or better (4 of these credits will satisfy 2 Professional Elective curriculum requirements for the PharmD, and the other 4 credits will be additional credits beyond what is required in the curriculum)
  - 2 or more didactic credits (either one Professional Elective in the PharmD curriculum or a graduate course in a subject related to the research project)
  - Presentation of work at yearly Pharmacy Research Day or other venue approved by the faculty mentor and the program directors.
    - (Note – students will take the remaining 1 required Professional Elective in non-research courses of their choice; therapeutics courses are recommended.)
- Submission of working portions of research thesis (i.e., Introduction, Materials and Methods, etc.) to the advisor and the Program Director each semester that the student is enrolled in research in order to receive a final grade for the course.
- Faculty and peer mentor approval of the thesis
- Presentation of the research results at the annual Pharmacy Research Day [https://pharm.rutgers.edu/content/pharmacy\\_research\\_day](https://pharm.rutgers.edu/content/pharmacy_research_day) or other venue approved by the faculty mentor and the Program Director.
- Minimum grade of B in each course in the research component of the program.

Students will register for research credits in one of the following:

Research in Chemical Biology	30:158:495 or 497 (496 or 498 in spring)
Research in Medicinal Chemistry	30:715:495 or 497 (496 or 498 in spring)
Research in Pharmacology	30:718:495 or 497 (496 or 498 in spring)
Research in Pharmaceutics	30:721:495 or 497 (496 or 498 in spring)
Research in Pharmacy Practice	30:725:495 or 497 (496 or 498 in spring)

These courses offer variable credits (based on the number of lab or clinical hours) and students must earn at least 8 credits over time. Research should take place either in a laboratory or at a clinical site under the supervision of the mentor. Students are required to take 4 additional credits beyond the requirements for the PharmD curriculum. They are also required to write a thesis for completion of the research program. It is anticipated that the quality of the work will be sufficiently high for eventual publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Portions of the thesis should be written during each research semester and finalized during the final semester of research. The Honors Program has a Rutgers sakai website that is used to communicate information about thesis requirements, presentation opportunities, and internships. Honors students will also be

invited to join a Linked In group for the EMSOP Honors Program.

Students who successfully complete the Honors Research Program will be identified at graduation with a special commendation, which will also be noted on their transcripts as “Completion of PharmD Honors Research Program.” While some of these students will achieve honors awards according to academic accomplishments (e.g., magna cum laude), participation in the Honors Research program is not, in and of itself, sufficient for that distinction.

### **Program Faculty**

The Program Co-Directors are faculty members – one representing the clinical faculty and two representing the basic sciences – who are members of the Pharmacy Honor’s Research Committee. They provide prospective students with general information about the program and will direct students to those faculty members whose research fits the interests of the students and who have agreed to serve as mentors. A successful mentoring relationship is built on mutual respect and interest – so students and faculty need to assess the potential for a successful collaborative relationship before making a commitment. Faculty mentors will provide students with academic advising and direction in their labs or clinical sites. The Co-Directors are responsible for the coordination with the mentors, biannual review of students’ plans of study, organization of the yearly Pharmacy Research Day, and general oversight of the program.

### **In conclusion...**

The newly launched Honors Research Program continues a long tradition, established in 1952, of providing a research-oriented program for those exceptional students who wish to extend their professional education. The requirements of the revamped Program are designed to give students a clear set of research experiences that will be useful for professional advancement, including PhD study. The Co-Directors will ensure clarity and uniformity in requirements and the faculty mentors will provide one-on-one training in new and emerging fields of clinical practice and basic science.

### **For additional information, contact:**

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