



**College of Dentistry**

Division of Dental Hygiene  
3082 Postle Hall  
305 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-292-2228

**To: Vice Provost W. Randy Smith, Council on Academic Affairs  
Office of Academic Affairs, 203 Bricker Hall, 190 North Oval Mall**

**From: Patricia Gardner, Assistant Director for Academic Studies, Division of Dental Hygiene**

**Subject: Honors Proposal for Dental Hygiene**

**Date: June 16, 2009**

The Division of Dental Hygiene is submitting a proposal for an Honors Program in Dental Hygiene. The Dental Hygiene Program does not currently offer an honors program. Successful completion of the proposed program will lead to Graduation with Honors in Dental Hygiene for students who do not complete a thesis and Graduation with Research Distinction in Dental Hygiene for students who complete the honors program including a thesis.

The proposal was developed by a committee of dental hygiene faculty members and professional staff in consultation with Linda Harlow, Associate Provost and Director, University Honors and Scholars. Existing honors programs were used as models and we believe the requirements and criteria are consistent with those of other academic units at the University.

**Attachments:**

**Honors Program Proposal**

**Dental Hygiene Honors Letter of Support from HS**

**Honors Program Letter of Support (from DHY Program Director)**

Division of Dental Hygiene  
Proposal for New Honors Program

Check one or both:

- Proposal for new or modified Honors program  
 Proposal for graduation with Honors in a college or department within an existing Honors program

Graduation with Honors in Dental Hygiene **will be awarded to students who complete all honors requirements but earn the required points without completing an honors thesis.**

Graduation with Research Distinction in Dental Hygiene **will be awarded to students who complete all honors requirements to include an honors thesis.**

A. Purpose of creating this program:

**The purpose of creating an honors program within The Ohio State University dental hygiene program is to foster research, leadership and service within our most academically motivated students. As the only baccalaureate program in Ohio, the dental hygiene profession looks to Ohio State for dental educators as well as educational and clinical research. An honors program will enhance the level of professionalism and academic excellence that our students attain through the current curriculum. Experiences such as service projects and research opportunities, as well as increased faculty contact time will challenge and engage interested students to make advances within the field of dental hygiene.**

**Creating an honors program will allow dental hygiene students to achieve recognition beyond the Latin graduation honors (e.g. summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude) in line with peer programs in the Colleges of Nursing and Allied Medical Professions. Honors students will be able to graduate with Honors in Dental Hygiene or with Honors Research Distinction in Dental Hygiene if a thesis is written**

B. Students to be served

**Number of Students:**

**Enrollment in the Division of Dental Hygiene includes 30-50 pre-dental hygiene students and approximately 96 students who have been admitted to the major (three classes of 32 students). The number of pre-dental hygiene students who are eligible for honors should be similar to that of other university freshmen. Pre-dental hygiene honors students will be monitored and will be encouraged to take honors GEC classes during the first year in order to maintain their honors status.**

**Admission to the dental hygiene major is very competitive and the applicant pool is much broader than the enrolled pre-dental hygiene students. The average GPA of students admitted to the dental hygiene ranges from 3.4 to 3.5, so we expect that as many as half of the 32 students admitted to the major each year will qualify for honors based on GPA. However, the dental hygiene program is a rigorous course of study and we do not expect that all qualified students will choose to pursue honors.**

There are an additional 15-25 students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program. This program is less competitive so fewer of the enrolled students will qualify for honors. Most of these students are working full-time and do not live close to campus (the required courses for this program are offered via distance). We will make the honors option available to these students but we expect little participation from this group.

**Eligibility:**

All incoming freshmen pre-dental hygiene students who meet the criteria for the University's Honors Program will be eligible for the Dental Hygiene Honors Program.

Transfer students who enter the University in pre-dental hygiene must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 from their the previous college. Transfer students will be admitted conditionally and must earn a minimum cumulative OSU GPA of 3.5 after completion of their second quarter of enrollment.

Students who are admitted to the dental hygiene major with a GPA of 3.5 or above will be notified of their eligibility and will be given an opportunity to enter the Honors Program during the first quarter of enrollment in the dental hygiene professional program.

**Enrollment Process:**

Qualified students will be notified of their eligibility and should meet with the Honors Director to enroll in the Dental Hygiene Honors Program.

**Continuance:**

Honors students must maintain a University GPA of 3.5 and meet the yearly standards for progress described in section C.4 below.

**Reinstatement:**

Students who fail to meet continuance standards will lose the Honors designation. At the recommendation of the faculty advisor, students who wish to return to Honors may continue to engage in honors activities for a maximum of two quarters and will return to Honors status if they meet the appropriate eligibility requirements after two quarters. Students may be reinstated only once; failure to maintain continuance standards after reinstatement will disqualify the student from continuing in the Dental Hygiene Honors Program.

**Communication with Students:**

All communication with students regarding honors will be initiated by the Academic Advisor or the Honors Director.

C. Specific structure of Honors Program requirements

1. GPA requirement to maintain Honors status:

**3.5 cumulative OSU GPA at the end of every year**

2. Requirements to enter Honors program after matriculation or transfer to the university:

**3.5 OSU GPA or transfer GPA; transfer students are admitted conditionally until they have completed two quarters at OSU with a cumulative OSU GPA of 3.5.**

3. Course requirements to maintain Honors status:

**6 Honors, upper division (500+), or graduate-level courses over the first three years (maximum of 2 Honors embedded courses).**

4. Program requirement to maintain Honors status/graduate in the Honors Program:

**End of DHY2 year (the first of three years in the dental hygiene major):  
Cumulative OSU GPA of 3.5, Dental Hygiene GPA of 3.5 and completion of at least four Honors or upper division courses (two courses for students who started Honors at matriculation to the Dental Hygiene major).**

**End of DHY3 year: Cumulative OSU GPA of 3.5, Dental Hygiene GPA of 3.5, completion of six Honors or upper division courses, and completion of at least 30 points or recommendation of faculty advisor.**

**Graduation: Students need a minimum of 80 points for graduation with Honors in Dental Hygiene. These points must be earned from each of the three categories 1)Honors & Graduate Coursework; 2)Research, Scholarship and Teaching; and 3)Leadership and Service. Students who complete 80 points to include an honors thesis will graduate with Honors Research Distinction in Dental Hygiene.**

**1. Honors and Graduate Coursework: At least 24 points must be earned by completing Honors courses or graduate-level courses while an undergraduate student. One point is earned for every credit hour completed. A minimum of minimum of 6 points must be within the dental hygiene major.**

**2. Research, Scholarship and Teaching: At least 15 points must be earned by completing research, scholarship, and teaching through the following opportunities:**

<b>Honors Thesis</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Minor</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>One quarter of study abroad</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Submit a research paper for publication in a refereed journal</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Present a research study at the Denman Undergraduate Research forum or a professional conference</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Serve as a teaching assistant</b>	<b>1 per credit hour</b>
<b>Successful completion of a foreign language through 104</b>	<b>15</b>

plus one additional course	
Complete DH H693	2 per credit hour (maximum 10)
Participate in the College of Dentistry Summer Research Program	20
Other as approved by the Honors committee	1-10

**3. Leadership and Service:** At least 15 points must be earned by completing service and leadership activities which go beyond the clinical and service-learning requirements for the major. Service projects must be approved in advance by the faculty advisor and documented following completion of the project. Each activity may count in only one of the categories below.

Leadership of a student organized project for recruitment or community-based outreach and engagement activities.	1-5 per project (maximum of 10)
Active member of college or university committee	5 per year (maximum of 5)
Participation in honors activities (fireside chats, lunch and learn, dinner and dialogue, etc...)	1 point per event (maximum of 5)
Service project through Honors and Scholars	5-20 per project (maximum of 20)
Attend and participate in a national professional conference Attend and serve as a delegate at a state professional conference Attend and serve as a delegate at a national professional conference	5 per conference 5 per conference 10 per conference (maximum of 20)
Other as approved by the Honors committee	1-10

**D. Honors Courses**

Students are admitted to the dental hygiene program after a minimum completion of one year of prerequisite courses. Of the prerequisite and general education courses taken the first year, many are offered at the Honors level such as English 110, Psychology 100, Sociology 101 and History. The students will complete several honors courses within the first or second year of course work before entering the dental hygiene program. While in the dental hygiene program the required course Microbiology 509 will also be considered an honors level course.

**Proposed Honors Embedded Courses in Dental Hygiene**

Due to the small number of students within the dental hygiene program, 32 per year, and the rigorous time schedule of required dental hygiene major courses, the proposal of this committee is to include primarily honors embedded courses. In addition to the embedded Honors courses, DH H783 will

be established for the honors thesis and DH H693 will entail independent research study. The four embedded courses proposed are:

- DH 380 Community Dental Health: 2 credit hours
- DH 383 Introduction to Research and Statistical Methods: 5 credit hours
- DH 412 Analysis and Interpretation of Research in Oral Health Care: 2 credit hours
- DH 485 Current Concepts in Dental Hygiene: 2 credit hours

E. Staffing of program

The Honors Committee will consist of the Division of Dental Hygiene Chair, the Assistant Director for Academic Studies, and three faculty members who are involved in scholarly activity and have an interest in mentoring honors students.

The Assistant Director for Academic Studies serves as the academic advisor for upper division students, and the Division also employs one part-time (50%) Academic Advisor who advises pre-major students and some students in the first year of the professional program. Both advisors will also advise the honors students in their assigned groups. The Assistant Director for Academic Studies will also serve as the Honors Director and will be responsible for monitoring progress and eligibility of all honors students, as well as identifying non-honors students who may be eligible to enter the program.

In addition to the academic advisor, all dental hygiene students are assigned a faculty advisor when they enter the professional program. Honors status will be taken into consideration in the faculty assignments and Honors students will be assigned to a faculty advisor who is a member of the Honors Committee.

Honors students will also work closely with designated faculty members in the Division who teach Honors embedded courses. These designated faculty members will serve as mentors as the student participates in the coursework, research and service related activities. Honors students will also be encouraged to work with other Dental Hygiene faculty members who share a common area of research interest.

F. Resources

The Division of Dental Hygiene is prepared to offer small sections of Honors Embedded courses, a Thesis Seminar and a variety of honors assignments throughout the dental hygiene curriculum with existing faculty. All dental hygiene students are assigned a faculty advisor, and honors students will be assigned to one of the faculty advisors who is also a member of the Honors Committee. While these faculty advisors may also be assigned non-honors students, their overall advising load will be reduced in order to allow extra time for honors advising. Faculty members who teach Honors Embedded courses will be provided additional course preparation time. The College of Dentistry has computer laboratories, classroom, clinic and laboratory space to support the additional learning activities of these students.

G. Periodic Program review

**The Honors Committee will conduct program reviews on an annual basis. These reviews will examine the program as it is being administered and elicit feedback from Honors students and directors of Honors embedded courses for program change/improvement. Honors students will be asked to complete the standardized honors embedded evaluation form as well as a short questionnaire specific to dental hygiene at the completion of each Dental Hygiene Honors embedded course. The Honors Director will be responsible for reporting student progress to the Committee. Results of the Honors Program review will also be reported to the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee and Dental Hygiene faculty on an annual basis.**

H. Letter of support from Michele Carr, Division of Dental Hygiene Chair, will be submitted in a separate document.



University Honors & Scholars Center Kuhn Honors & Scholars House  
220 West 12th Avenue  
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March 27, 2009

W. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs  
Academic Affairs  
203 Bricker Hall  
CAMPUS

Dear Randy:

I am writing to lend my support to the Division of Dental Hygiene's proposal for an Honors Program in Dental Hygiene. With the university-wide requirements in place that apply to all Honors students entering in AU06 and later, students are now required to complete a college Honors program during their undergraduate years of study. Currently, the Division of Dental Hygiene offers no official Honors Program, other than the thesis option. This new program will provide students with a four-year Honors Program, including monitoring of pre-Dental Hygiene students during their first year of study.

The proposed program, which includes six Honors, upper division (500+), or graduate-level courses over the first three years, maintenance of a 3.5 GPA, and completion of the Honors in Dental Hygiene program, would culminate in the designation of Graduation with Honors in Dental Hygiene (without the thesis), or Graduation with Honors Research Distinction in Dental Hygiene (with the thesis).

The University Honors Faculty Advisory Committee reviewed this proposal and approved it at the end of Winter Quarter 2009. On behalf of this committee, I recommend that the Council on Academic Affairs extend its approval as well. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Best wishes,

Linda L. Harlow  
Associate Provost and Director  
University Honors and Scholars

cc: Patricia Gardner, Honors Director, Division of Dental Hygiene  
Michele Carr, Chair, Division of Dental Hygiene





College of Dentistry

Division of Dental Hygiene  
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Linda Harlow, Associate Provost  
University Honors and Scholars Center  
220 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Linda,

I am writing in support of implementing an Honors program within the dental hygiene program. Currently, students who complete our program receive a Bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene from the College of Dentistry. These students have the ability to distinguish themselves through the Latin graduation honors (e.g. cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude) and achieving the criteria for graduation with distinction. The Division at present does not offer its students a means to graduate with honors.

Our students are of very high caliber and with the increase in rigorous academic admission standards for the university, our students will be brighter and more intellectually driven. The faculty and I believe that offering an Honors Program in the Division of Dental Hygiene would provide a small number of academically high achieving students with an enriched baccalaureate experience while majoring in dental hygiene. We have developed a proposal for establishing an Honors Program in the Division of Dental Hygiene and hope that you and the Office of Academic affairs will support our endeavor. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 688-4897 or [carr.3@osu.edu](mailto:carr.3@osu.edu).

Thanks for your assistance

Sincerely,

*Michele P. Carr*

Chair and Associate Professor  
Division of Dental Hygiene