INTRODUCING THE HONORS THESIS COURSE & COMMUNITY

The Health & Society major is unveiling a new opportunity for our highest-achieving students. Fifteen students will be selected to participate in our inaugural honors thesis course sequence and community, launching in the fall 2023 semester. Each student in the thesis course will work on an independent research project of their choice during the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters. The course sequence will culminate in an original contribution to the field in the form of a 50+ page research paper and presentation. The experience will serve as excellent foundation for graduate study and will strengthen your portfolio for the graduate admissions process. Students in the thesis course sequence will work closely with two UT faculty members (the first and second reader on the thesis) and be part of a scholarly community of dedicated peers who are passionate about health and well-being.

Eligibility. Departmental Honors students will complete a two-semester honors thesis. To register for the honors sequence, students must have a UT GPA of 3.0 and a Health & Society major GPA of 3.5.

Thesis course sequence. Students will register for H S 679HA in the fall and 679HB in the spring. The thesis course will meet once weekly for three hours with Dr. Nina Palmo, who will serve as the thesis supervisor for each project. Weekly attendance in the thesis course is required. Students are also required to find a second reader with subject matter expertise. The second reader should be finalized early in the fall (H S 679 HA) semester.

Thesis requirements. Students will develop an original research paper at least 50 pages in length. Upon completion of H S 679 HB in the spring, a signed and bound copy of the final thesis must be submitted to the H S academic advisor.

H S 378 substitution. Students who complete a departmental honors thesis are NOT required to complete H S 378. If you have already taken H S 378, you are still eligible for the thesis program.

A note to Plan III students. It is possible to complete your Plan II thesis requirement through the Health & Society thesis program. Please consult with your Plan II advisor and Health & Society thesis advisor to confirm your plans.

Application deadline. Applications to the Honors Thesis Program will be accepted beginning Monday, February 20th and will close on Monday, March 20th. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so early application is encouraged. Students who are admitted to the thesis program should enroll in H S 679 HA for the fall 2023 semester. Completed applications should be submitted to Mitchell Ridsdale at mrlidsdale@austin.utexas.edu.
APPLICATION QUESTIONS
Answer each of the following questions. Please limit each answer to 100 words or less.

1) Why do you want to complete an honors thesis?

2) Which of the following best represents your current interests in the health field? It does not need to be your current track in the major. You may include a written response as well.
   - Individual health & health behavior
   - Population health
   - Health care policy and economics
   - Social and cultural context of health

3) Briefly describe the broad topic area(s) you are potentially interested in examining as part of your research (e.g., Medicaid eligibility, media representations of illness, modern wellness culture, pandemic response, ADHD, food insecurity, power & status, stigma, etc.).
   Note: you are not obligated to choose from the above list. These are intended as examples.

4) Is there a specific population you are interested in studying (e.g., children, adolescents, nurses, pre-med students, LGBTQ individuals, a specific racial/ethnic/cultural group, etc.)?
   Note: you are not obligated to choose from the above list. These are intended as examples.

5) What resource materials do you envision working with in your study (e.g., existing datasets, your own survey data collection, interviews, historical records, etc.)?

6) How do you think you could contribute to a peer community of scholars?

7) Is there anything else we should know about your interest in the thesis program?