

### University of Colorado College of Nursing Undergraduate Honors Program

Catherine Jankowski, PhD, FACSM Denise Smith, PhD, CNM, FACNM Coordinators, BS Honors Program Information Session

- Are you interested in finding ways to combat childhood obesity?
- How about investigating the meaning of dignity in persons with serious illness?
- Test massage as a way to reduce irritability and GERD in infants?
- Or, determine the impact of trauma and abuse in opioid use disorder?







Dr. Patricia Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, former director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) has said:

- "There's a real shortage of nurse researchers and faculty."
- Nursing needs more researchers to delve into important areas such as health promotion, disease prevention, improving quality of life, eliminating health disparities and setting directions for end-of-life research.

"Introducing exceptional nursing students to research as a career opportunity is a seed that needs to be planted early in their education."

#### PhD versus DNP

- ▶ PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
  - · a *scientific research* degree
  - Generate new knowledge in the physical, biological, and social sciences
- DNP: Doctor of Nursing Practice
  - a *clinical* degree
  - · Apply knowledge in clinical settings
- Students who complete the Honors program are given preferential consideration for admission to the CU Nursing PhD program.



# What is the CU Nursing Undergraduate Honors Program?

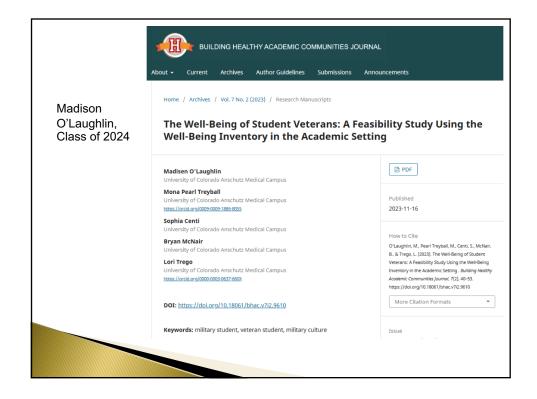
#### Provides a research experience with a faculty mentor

- Format
  - Seminars
  - Mentored independent study research experiences
- Goals
  - Promote scholarship, intellectual, & professional development
  - Challenge students to grow & excel
- Products
  - Thesis paper (may be publishable)
  - Poster/oral presentation at a nursing conference









#### The Honors Program is not...

- Not an "honor society"
- Not easy adds to the rigorous undergraduate nursing curriculum
- Not passive requires active engagement for 2 years
- Not required for the BS in Nursing
- Not lonely the Honors students & faculty are supportive

# Why Apply?

#### Honors students receive:

- Individualized mentorship in scholarly inquiry
- Small group instruction in critical thinking skills leading to the development of a testable research hypothesis
- Opportunity to develop scientific writing & speaking skills
- Preferential consideration for admission to the CU Nursing PhD program.



#### What Does the Program Involve?

- Students in the program take 6 credits beyond the traditional BS
- Credits focus on research and scholarship:
  - Junior year

Two 1-credit honors seminar courses

- · 1 each in fall and spring
- Senior year

Two 1-credit honors seminar courses

Two 1-credit mentored independent study courses

 Thesis is a scholarly paper and poster or podium presentation.

## Who is Eligible?

- Pre-licensure students in the Traditional College of Nursing program
- Attend class on the Anschutz Medical Campus
- ▶ Minimum of 3.7 cumulative grade (GPA)\*
- Curiosity and enthusiasm for research

#### Who Benefits?



Participation in the honors program includes many advantages for students, future employers, and society.

Students enjoy close interaction with distinguished faculty, thought-provoking seminars, and independent study.



## When and How do I Apply?

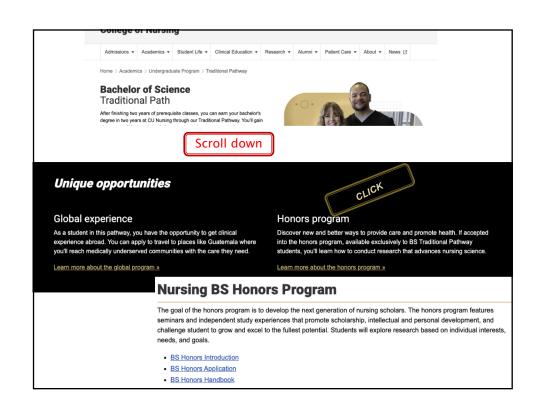
- ▶ Applications due mid-March
- ▶ Interviews mid-April
- Forms & instructions will be available through the admissions office or CU College of Nursing website

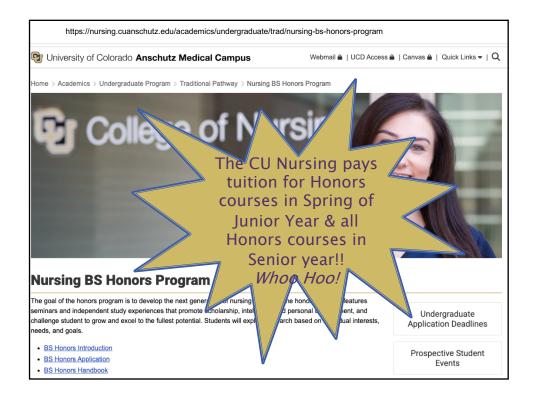


## How are Applicants Selected?

- A committee will select students based on:
  - acceptance into BS nursing major
  - minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7/4.0 scale
  - 1-page resume / curriculum vitae
  - honors program questionnaire
  - two letters of reference
  - essay
  - interview







# Who Should I Contact for Additional Information?

- Additional information and application forms will be available on the CU Nursing website
- You may also contact Dr. Jankowski, Honors Program Coordinator:
  - Catherine Jankowski, PhD, FACSM <u>Catherine.jankowski@cuanschutz.edu</u> (Office) 303-724-7383

