

# USC School of Pharmacy

## *Undergraduate Programs*

### **Honors in Pharmacology and Drug Development or Biopharmaceutical Sciences**

To better provide students with an education that leads them to being graduate school and career-ready, students in the Pharmacology and Drug Development (PDD) and Biopharmaceutical Sciences (BPS) majors may submit a capstone project.

Reflecting on who they are while showing what they want to do, the project provides students with the opportunity to explore research projects of personal or professional interest and to address the latest trends or issue through focused study and applied research. The project allows students to demonstrate their ability to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their academic studies to real-world issues and problems. These final projects should affirm students' ability to think critically and creatively, to solve practical problems, to make reasoned and ethical decisions, and to communicate effectively.

Students should endeavor to actively integrate and apply all they have learned through their PDD/BPS coursework in the development, implementation, and analysis of a practical, hands-on project that addresses a problem or issue encountered by the student during their course of study. Students should seek a project that requires a creative solution and that they have a personal interest in exploring.

The Senior Capstone Project/Honors thesis is a demonstration of knowledge in the student's chosen area of interest which results in a product/project, research data, research paper, or portfolio of work, and a presentation. This experience encourages students to use a variety of skills in the areas of writing, speaking, research, and documentation. Students are not bound by their coursework and may choose a project that is multidisciplinary in nature.

### **Goals**

- To provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their courses to research relating to a research area of interest
- To allow students to extend their academic experience into areas of personal or professional career interests, to include working with new ideas, organizations, or individuals
- To encourage students to think critically and creatively about academic, professional, and/or social issues and to further develop their analytical and ethical leadership skills
- To provide students with the opportunity to refine research skills and demonstrate their proficiency in written and/or oral communication skills

## Requirements

To be eligible to graduate with honors, students must meet all the following requirements:

- A minimum overall 3.5 USC undergraduate GPA at the time of the application and upon graduation from USC, with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in all courses in the PDD/BPS major.
- Enrollment in RXRS-493/BPSI-493, Senior Honors Seminar I in the first semester of their senior year and RXRS-493/BPSI-494, Senior Honors Seminar II in the second semester of their senior year (*students graduating in the fall semester will register first in 493 in the spring of their senior and 494 in their final semester at USC*).
- A thesis supervised and approved by a USC Pharmacy faculty member
- Satisfactorily completes course work for an honors project, and achieves no less than a 3.5 GPA (A = 4.0) overall GPA at the time of graduation (university requirement)
- Departmental honors are noted on academic transcripts but not on the diploma upon successful completion of requirements
- Departmental honors are not tied to USC *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude* distinctions though a number of the requirements may be similar
- RXRS/BPSI -493 & RXRS/BPSI-494 must be taken for a letter grade
- RXRS/BPSI -493 & RXRS/BPSI-494 are not eligible towards the RXRS/BPSI course requirements for the Pharmacology and Drug Development/Biopharmaceutical Sciences majors

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