



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND SOCIAL WORK

HONOURS PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)
Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours)



WELCOME TO THE HONOURS PROGRAM

The Honours programs have been specifically designed to enhance skills and learning for graduates of Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery programs. The program is also ideal for Registered Nurses and Midwives who wish to build their research capacity, upgrade their qualifications, maintain currency in their clinical practice, expand their career path, and/or enhance their potential for promotion through research training.

Graduates who have completed a Bachelor degree with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.0 are eligible and actively encouraged to undertake Honours. The Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery Honours Programs are offered on either a full-time or part-time basis.

The Honours programs are research based, and allows students the flexibility to undertake a research specific question which they have developed, or they can elect to commence a research project nominated by the School. Honours programs are semester based and entry is available to applicants in any semester. Students can elect to undertake a traditional thesis as their final subject, or a thesis by publication.

Successful completion of the Honours program can lead to enrolment in a Masters of Philosophy (MPhil), or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Honours graduates who achieve Honours Class I or IIA are eligible to apply for Australian Postgraduate Award scholarships to support their Research Higher Degree.

The main aims of the Honours program are:

- to enable students to pursue further study in a specialised area in more depth than is possible in a 3-year Bachelor's degree program;
- to enhance students' capacity for independent research and to acquire research skills appropriate to their areas of specialisation [nursing or midwifery]; and
- to train to a standard sufficient for enrolment in postgraduate research degrees and for a specialist career.

The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

The School of Nursing and Midwifery was launched in 2004 (in 2015, it merged with Social Work to form The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work), and for over 10 years, we've been conducting innovative teaching and research programs. Every day, our academic staff deliver the very best teaching to ensure our students are equipped to work in an increasingly interconnected world. We are committed to building relationships and clinical partnership programs that will contribute to the health and well-being of the community.

We are based across various sites. These include several clinical schools where undergraduate students carry out the majority of their education. In 2015, our School base was relocated to St Lucia, alongside the Faculty of Health Sciences main office. Much of our undergraduate training is conducted in our teaching hospital clinical schools in South East Queensland.

Research in Nursing and Midwifery

Research undertaken within Nursing and Midwifery is informed by global, national and state primary health care practice and strategy. Our research addresses and defines barriers to health, and examines methods by which improvements to health care can be achieved.

Reflecting the diversity of care settings within which nurses and midwives practise, the focus of particular research may incorporate three interrelated areas or clusters, and extend to primary, secondary and tertiary levels of clinical care.

The research clusters are:

- Quality Health Systems
- Health Across the Lifespan
- Chronic Conditions

The UQ Advantage

As a School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work Honours student you have access to a wide range of multi-disciplinary advisory teams that are drawn from experts in other University of Queensland Schools, Faculties and Research Centres and in our partner organisations.

Our School belongs to the [Group of Eight \(Go8\)](#), a collaboration of leading research intensive Australian Universities and Universities 21 ([U21](#)) a global network of research intensive universities.

The University of Queensland has been ranked as 5 “Well Above World Standard” in the Field of Research (FOR) of Nursing in the 2012 Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) exercise. The only Queensland University and one of seven Australian Universities to have achieved this distinction.

Specialised knowledge and research skills are a significant advantage in the employment market. Nurse and midwife researchers have outstanding employment opportunities within Australia and overseas, and UQ nursing graduate are highly regarded.

Eligibility for Honours

To enrol for Honours you must: have completed either a BN or BMid program; have achieved a GPA of 5 and satisfy any additional requirements set by the Head of School. The Honours Courses Coordinator can provide further advice on your eligibility.

HONOURS PROGRAM STRUCTURE

www.nursing-midwifery.uq.edu.au/honours

Study Plan

The Honours program is available as a one year full-time or equivalent part-time program.

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) Program

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) program students complete a total of 16 units of study:

Course Code	Course Name	Units
NURS6001	Advanced discipline readings	4
NURS6002	Research methods & thesis preparation	4
NURS6003	Thesis or Thesis by publication [full-time]	8
or		
NURS6004	Thesis or Thesis by publication [part-time]	8

Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) Program

Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) program students complete a total of 16 units of study:

Course Code	Course Name	Units
MIDW6001	Advanced discipline readings	4
MIDW6002	Research methods & thesis preparation	4
MIDW6003	Thesis or Thesis by publication [full-time]	8
or		
MIDW6004	Thesis or thesis by publication [part-time]	8

- NURS/MIDW6001: To provide you with the necessary skills to perform a basic systematic review or a scholarly review of the scientific literature relevant to the research question that you have chosen for your research thesis.
- NURS/MIDW6002: To provide you with an overview of the variety of research methods utilised in health research and the skills to determine which research method best answers the research question you have chosen for your research thesis.
- NURS/MIDW6003/4: To provide you with the opportunity to formulate and complete a research thesis, or an academic paper for publication.

Choosing a topic and an advisor

The first steps are to choose a topic and an advisor:

- If you are looking for ideas for a topic, try exploring issues in your clinical area, reviewing reports or talk with other research students and clinicians, review specific questions from your undergraduate studies. Make a tentative list of research questions or topics.
- Examine the academic staff profiles on the school website to help you identify an advisor with similar research interests, or project opportunities.
- Arrange to meet with the Nursing and Midwifery Honours Courses Coordinator to discuss the selection of the topic and the advisor.

The role of the advisor

The role of the advisor is to:

- discuss and agree on expectations of roles of you and your advisor throughout the program
- assist in developing a study plan that it is scientifically sound and possible to implement with the resources available
- guide you in determining whether your research will culminate in a traditional thesis or thesis by publication
- ensure that research integrity is maintained throughout the program
- be available for regular consultation for an appropriate period
- regularly discuss progress and assist in the development of appropriate research habits
- provide appropriate feedback on work throughout the program, including information on when and if a student's performance is unsatisfactory.

The role of the student

The role of the student is to:

- take responsibility for developing a topic, research question and study plan
- ensure that research integrity is maintained throughout the program
- establish a schedule of regular consultation meetings with your advisor

- provide your advisor with high quality written drafts in a timely manner
- respond appropriately to feedback provided by your advisor.
- Adhere to the student charter which outlines expectations and responsibilities
www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor/
- Complete the academic integrity online tutorial within the first semester of study and prior to the census date
www.uq.edu.au/integrity/Login

Research conduct and integrity

Students have a responsibility to ensure that their research is conducted responsibly and ethically. As a minimum, that means acting in a way that is acceptable to society at large. At The University of Queensland, there are a number of general procedures that must be followed including safety and retention of data collected, statements of authorship of the research and the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest. Students should read The University of Queensland Guidelines for Ethical Review of Research Involving Humans and related links found on the website:

<http://www.uq.edu.au/research/integrity-compliance>

The Ethics Office is part of the Research and Innovation Division, located in Cumbrae-Stewart Building, Telephone: (07) 3365 3924

Email: humanethics@research.uq.edu.au

Details of the university's research and research training practices, including management of research activities, the responsible conduct of research, procedures for grants, management of research budgets and the university's policies in relation to research higher degree candidates are found in this section of the Policies and Procedures Library [PPL].

[4.20.02 Responsible Conduct of Research](#)

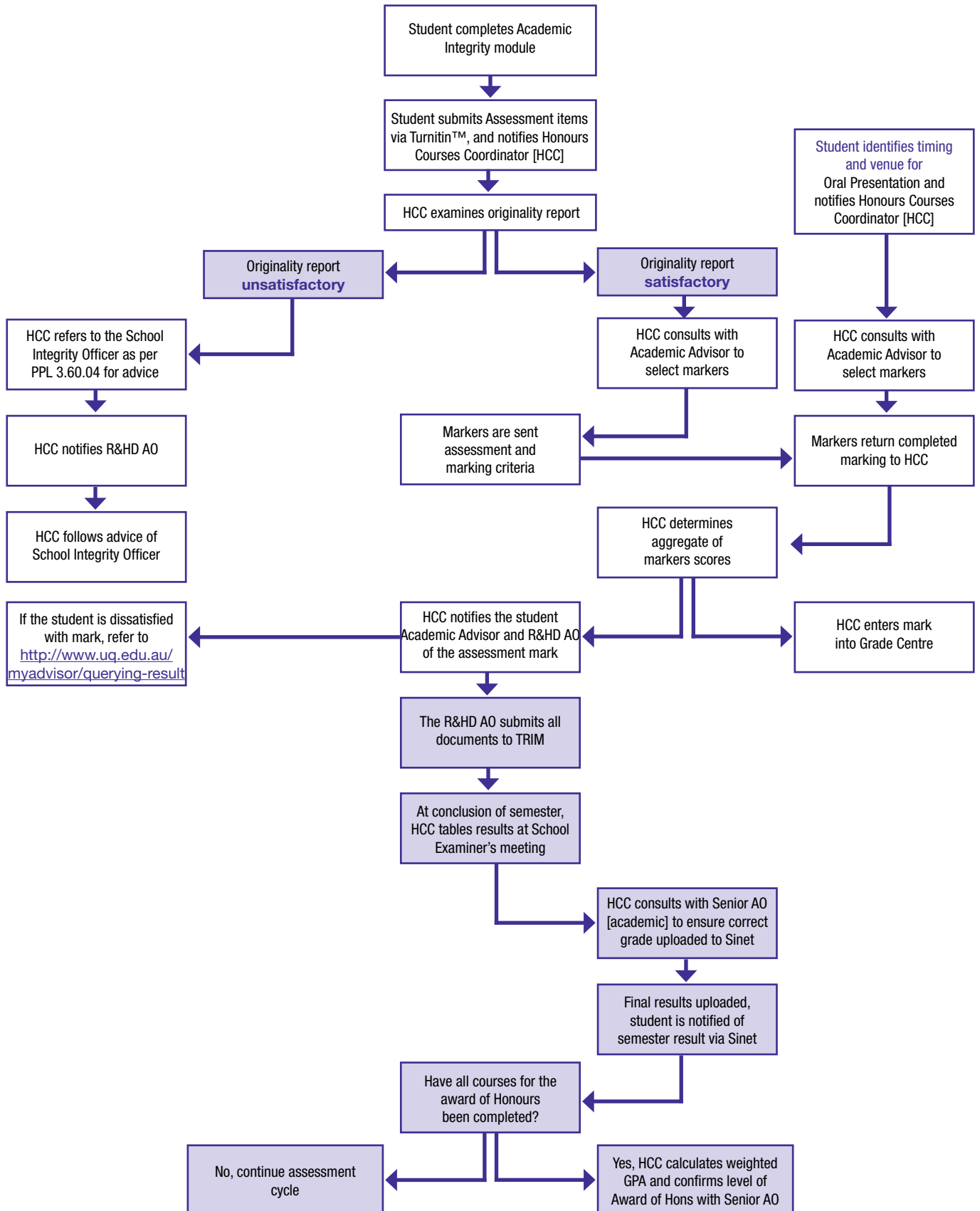
[4.20.04 Authorship](#)

[4.20.05 Research Misconduct](#)

[4.20.06 Research Data and Primary Materials Management](#)

[4.20.07 Attribution of Publication Affiliation](#)

Assessment procedures for Honours



Assessment

Marking criteria are specific to individual courses and are contained in each course profile. Each piece of assessment will normally be examined by academic staff, who will be appointed by the Honours Courses Coordinator in collaboration with the student's advisor.

Levels of Honours

On successful completion of the program Honours are awarded as Honours Class I, Honours Class IIA, Honours Class IIB, and Honours Class III.



Contact for queries

Administrative Support

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Academic Support

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