



THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND

FACULTY OF MEDICAL
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

School of Population Health

Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours)

Programme Information

2012

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This handbook is intended to provide general information about the Honours programme to those who are contemplating, or who are definitely, undertaking honours in 2012. If you have any queries after reading this information booklet please do not hesitate to contact us:

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About Honours

Overview

Honours is an important year for those embarking on a career in Health Services. It might be the final year of tertiary education or a route into research. Honours is meant to do more than just impart knowledge to students. It is designed to develop a deeper understanding of the epistemological underpinning of population health, and the confidence and skills to pursue a career in the health sector or further study options.

Honours also provides an opportunity for students to explore a selected topic relevant to the student's interest. It enacts a research process, which will include critical analysis of literature, some form of research activity, and the formal presentation of the results in the form of a dissertation and an oral presentation. Upon successful completion of the Honours programme it is expected that some students (those who have completed Honours with First Class or Second Class (Division 1)) will be permitted to undertake doctoral study.

On the completion of Honours, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate a relevant scholarly literature and in doing so be familiar with a broad base in contemporary theory and research
- identify, define, analyse and solve problems in a flexible manner
- design, conduct and report original research
- apply understanding at a policy development and practice level

Entry requirements

Entry into the Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours programme is via application following the successful completion of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Health Sciences from The University of Auckland (or its equivalent degree as approved by the Senate or its representative).

Application procedures

Entry into the course is annual. Applications must initially be made on Student Services Online. If you are an existing student with your NetID number and NetID password, simply go to your personal pages to enrol. Otherwise go to [www.auckland.ac.nz/apply now](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/apply_now). The closing date for applications is **December 8, 2011**. Selection for the course will be completed by **December 16** (subject to examination results where these are not available at the time of application).

Students intending to enrol in the Bachelor of Health Science Honours programme will need to meet with Kim Dirks, the Director of the programme. This will give students an opportunity to enquire about the programme in more detail.

Notification of the outcome of applications will be sent to students by mail.

How are decisions made about who is selected for a place in Honours?

- Initially applicants are ranked on the basis of academic merit, based on performance in 90 points Stage III courses.
- The Honours selection committee considers Grade Point Average (GPA) and the pattern of results across all of the topics taken.

Honours Prize

In 2009, the School of Population Health established a prize for the student in the BHSc Honours programme who achieves the highest overall grade point average. The award is made annually and has a value of \$250.

Programme of study

Figure 1 shows the structure of the Bachelor of Health Science Honours degree. The degree comprises **120** points:

Core Courses:

15 points POPLHLTH 702: Research Methods for Health Services

15 points POPLHLTH 758: Theoretical Concepts of Health

60 points POPLHLTH 790A&B: Honours Dissertation

Elective Courses:

Students need to choose two elective courses (i.e., 30 points) from the following courses:

HLTHINFO 728; MAORHLTH 702, 706; POPLHLTH 708-712, 715, 717-726, 729, 732-738, 757; ANTHRO 732; GEOG 726.

[Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of permitted courses]

Please note: The Honours degree may be awarded only where a student's overall grade for the Degree of Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours meets to minimum requirements for Honours.

Should a student fail to qualify for the award of the Degree of Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours, Senate or its representative may approve the reassignment of points towards the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences.

COURSE DETAILS

POPLHLTH 790A&B: Honours Dissertation

60 points Two Semesters

Description: Students design and carry out an independent research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff. They will work with the guidance of their supervisor to develop a research proposal, to collect and analyse primary data or interrogate an existing data set, in order to answer a specific question or set of research questions.

The research findings are reported in a dissertation of no more than 100 pages (all inclusive) in length. The completed dissertation is submitted no later than the final day of the second semester.

The **Honours Dissertation Handbook** will be distributed during the Honours orientation meeting in February, 2012. This document outlines important aspects of planning and conduction of a successful dissertation project and writing up of the results.

How is supervision arranged? Students will be provided with a list of supervisors and projects near the end of 2011. It is highly recommended that once students are informed of their admission to the Honours programme they contact academic staff to discuss the research project/s that interests them. Students will then be required to submit to the Honours director a list, in order of priority, of three of their preferred supervisors and projects early in 2012. Allocation of research projects will be made by the Honours director in consultation with the supervisors prior to the start of the academic year.

Coursework

POPLHLTH 758: Theoretical Concepts of Health

15 points Semester 1

Class contact: 2 hour seminar per week

Description: A number of theoretical explanations of public health are considered in order to address health issues in diverse communities. An ecological perspective of health will be explored and the specific models of population health will be critiqued.

POPLHLTH 702: Research Methods

15 points Semester 1

Class Contact: 4 teachings days over the semester

Description: An overview of the theoretical underpinnings/assumptions of quantitative and qualitative research designs using illustrative examples from a range of health services.

Coursework Electives

Brief description of all courses that are listed as electives can be found in the postgraduate coursework handbook available from Postgraduate teaching administration. Appendix 1 lists all electives.

Honours Tutorials

Tutorials will also be held on a fortnightly basis and will cover material designed to support students whilst undertaking their dissertation. These sessions are run partly by the Student Learning Centre.

Overview of Honours Timetable

Honours work begins in February with a one day orientation on 23 February, 2012. Attendance at this is highly recommended. Preliminary discussions about carrying out the dissertation as well as other important course matters will be discussed at this meeting. Coursework classes commence at the beginning of the academic year – Monday 27 February, 2012. In addition to attendance in class, a tutorial session will be held every fortnight. Tutorials are designed to support students and will feature sessions on writing the research proposal and writing the final dissertation.

Key Dates for Honours Programme

Final date for applying for Honours on SSO	Closes 8 December, 2011
Notification of outcome of application for Honours	Begins 16 December, 2011
Honours Orientation day	23 February, 2012
Semester 1 begins – coursework starts	27 February, 2012
Lectures end	1 June, 2012
Exam period	7 June – 25 June, 2012
Semester 1 ends	25 June, 2012
Semester 2 begins – coursework	16 July, 2012
Dissertation Presentation	12 October, 2012
Lectures end	19 October, 2012
Exam period	25 October – 12 November, 2012
Semester 2 ends	12 November, 2012
Dissertations due to BHSc office	12 November, 2012

Note: The timetable for work required to complete the dissertation can be found in the dissertation handbook.

School of Population Health Facilities

Honours students will be able to utilise the School of Population Health (SoPH) computing laboratory and Postgraduate study room on the first floor of the SoPH building. The school maintains a library of Dissertations and Theses. Honours students wishing to access these will need to ask staff at the Tamaki Campus reception desk. There are prayer rooms in 731.312 & 731.313.

23 February	ORIENTATION DAY		
27 February Start Semester 1	COURSEWORK POPLHLTH 702 (15 pts) POPLHLTH 758 (15 pts) POPLHLTH Elective (15 pts)	POPLHLH 790: DISSERTATION (60 pts)	Fortnightly Tutorials
25 June End of Semester			
16 July Start Semester 2	COURSEWORK POPLHLTH Elective (15 pts)		
12 November End Semester 2		Dissertation Due 12 November	

Figure 1: Structure of the Bachelor of Health Sciences Honours Degree

APPENDIX 1: DESCRIPTION OF TOPICS

Elective and core courses in the BHSc(Hons). Refer to School of Population Health Postgraduate Handbook for more detailed information about these courses.

Core Courses

POPLHLTH 702: Research Methods for Health Services [Sem 1]

Provides students with the skills to plan and carry out small-scale research projects. Both qualitative and quantitative research skills will be covered, with illustrative examples from a range of health services.

POPLHLTH 758: Theoretical Concepts of Health [Sem 1]

A number of theoretical explanations of public health are considered in order to address health issues in diverse communities. An ecological perspective of health will be explored and the specific models of population health will be critiqued.

Elective Courses

HLTHINFO 728: Principles of Health Informatics [Sem 1]

The objective of this course is to develop an ability to analyse the role and dynamics of knowledge in the working environment in the health sector, and to develop aspects of knowledge infrastructure.

MAORIHTH 702: Maori Models of Health Practice [Sem 1]

Maori models of assessment, treatment, healing and health. Students will carry out assessments with Maori clients, whanau and communities to achieve improvements in treatment recovery and health outcomes for Maori. Students will recognise the diversity of Maori clients and will be able to work individually and collectively with different Maori groups to achieve the requested outcomes.

MAORIHTH 709: Special Topic Research and Maori Health [Not offered in 2012]

POPLHLTH 708: Epidemiology [Sem 2]

An introduction to epidemiological study design, measure of effect, screening, basic statistics for epidemiology and critical appraisal.

POPLHLTH 709: Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence Based Health Care [Online Course]

Seek for advice from Sarah Turbott, Manager Postgraduate Studies, before enrol
Explores the application of epidemiological principles to clinical decision making, central to the practice of evidence based health care. Underlying this practice is the ability to effectively, critically and systematically appraise and synthesise relevant evidence to answer important clinical and health care questions about screening, diagnosis, prognosis, interventions (including therapy), and economic implications (cost-effectiveness and efficiency).

POPLHLTH 711: Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis [Sem 2]

An introduction to the principles and critical appraisal of systematic reviews and meta-analysis and their role in evidence –based practice. Topics include: protocol development, question formulation, identification of evidence, selection of studies for inclusion, appraisal and quality of included studies, extraction and recording of data, synthesis (meta-analysis) and interpretation of results and application.

POPLHLTH 712: Clinical Trial Design, Analysis, and Management [Sem 2]

An introduction to the methodological and practical aspects of clinical trial design, analysis and management.

POPLHLTH 715: International Public Health [Sem 1]

This course explores global health from a public health perspective, with a strong emphasis on health and its determinants in poor countries. Topics covered include the global burden of disease, global environmental challenges to health, international governance, international health care financing and international health promotion.

POPLHLTH 717: Health and Society [Sem 2]

An exploration of health within a social context. Examines the relationship between social factors, their impact on health and the ways in which these relationships inform our understanding of health and help direct care provision.

POPLHLTH 718: Health and Public Policy [Sem 1]

An analysis of the policy process in New Zealand with special reference to issues of health and health care.

POPLHLTH 719: Health Economics [Sem 2]

An introduction to basic concepts in economics and their application to health care, including the economic incentives associated with different methods of financing and organising health systems.

POPLHLTH 720: Cost effectiveness Evaluation [Sem 1]

The application of economic methods to the evaluation of health services and programmes. The principles and techniques of economic evaluation, the process of measuring costs and benefits of health services, quality of life measurements.

POPLHLTH 721: Health Management [Sem 1]

The application of general management principles to the health field, with particular reference to the nature of health organisations, leadership, managing change, and managing with professional in a turbulent environment.

POPLHLTH 722: Health Care Organization [Sem 2]

The principles, structure, organisation and funding of health systems. Special reference to how the New Zealand health system operates, and to current issues from an international perspectives.

POPLHLTH 724: Quality in Health Care [Sem 1]

Quality health care is examined with an emphasis on strategies that enable individuals, teams, and services within health care organisations to implement and sustain performance improvement. Allows students to explore the quality principles in an area of their own choice.

POPLHLTH 725: Environmental Health [Sem 1]

Introduction to the mechanisms behind environmental hazards causing damage to human health, links between industrial and agricultural development, environmental change and public health actions in reducing environmental health risks. Implications of an ecological approach to the health impacts of environmental exposures.

POPLHLTH 726: Health Protection [Sem 2]

Principles of health protection as an element of public health at local and national levels. Applications to environmental health, occupational health and communicable diseases. Identification of health hazards, development of prevention strategies, and field implementation methods. Food and drinking water monitoring. Screening for exposure and early diagnosis. Immunization and quarantine programmes.

POPLHLTH 729: Information and Strategic Health Management [Sem 2]

Examines the potential for information from all sources to enhance management and impact on strategy in the health sector and care organisations.

POPLHLTH 732: Population Youth Health [Sem 1]

Youth injury prevention, resiliency factors and reproductive issues, and advocacy for young people. How do you make a difference in youth health? This course introduces key concepts in population health and utilises an evidence based approach and New Zealand practice examples to consider how youth health can be improved in communities and populations.

POPLHLTH 733: Health Promotion Theory and Models [Sem 1]

The concept and scope of health promotion. The history, philosophy and values of health promotion in terms of various theoretical and practice models. The emphasis is on practical applications in a variety of settings.

POPLHLTH 734: Health Promotion Strategies [Sem 2]

An overview of approaches and key strategies employed to promote health, with an emphasis on public policy, community action and advocacy. Practical application of the principles and techniques of design, implementation and evaluation of health promotion.

POPLHLTH 735: Mental Health Development: Theory and Principles [Sem 1]

Mental Health Development (MHD) represents an emergent paradigm in the mental health sector, one which de-emphasises pathology and deficits, and emphasises strengths, resilience and positive quality of life. It is applicable to all people, including those with mental illness, and to all aspects of mental health and social development professional activity, including treatment, recovery, mental health promotion and community development. It has personal, community and public health dimensions, and

has a strong cultural perspective. This course emphasises the treatment and recovery dimensions of MHD

POPLHLTH 736: Mental Health Promotion [Sem 2]

Examines the central role that positive mental health and well-being plays in the health of populations. It focuses on understanding the determinants of mental health and the processes by which these determinants affect mental health. The theory and application of Mental Health Promotion practice, encompassing strategies for action at the societal, community and individual level, are discussed.

POPLHLTH 737: Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug studies [sem 1]

Provides an introduction and overview to studies on alcohol and other drug. Incorporates theory and research developed within public health, mental health, and specialised treatment frameworks. Topics will include: coverage of historical developments, a review of major theoretical issues and overview of current trends.

POPLHLTH 738: Biology of Addiction [Sem 2]

The genetic and neurobiological factors that predispose to addiction. The response of the brain to various addictive substances. The pharmacological, clinical and behavioural effects of alcohol, tobacco, opioids, marijuana, amphetamines and hallucinogens. Treatment of intoxication and withdrawal.

POPLHLTH 756: Health Services Analysis and Policy [Not available in 2012]

Examines how social factors, financing systems, organisational systems processes, health technologies and personal behaviours affect health outcomes and quality of life. Provides an overview of current research on access to health care, health care expenditure, quality of care and evidence based management and policy. Provides students with the expertise to conduct quantitative analysis in health services research, and includes the use of statistical packages.

POPLHLTH 757: Evaluation Theory and Practice [Not available in 2012]

Provides an in-depth perspective of evaluation theory and practice, and their application to the health sector. There will be an advanced level focus (following on from POPLHLTH 705) on how to conduct evaluations using a variety of models and applying to specific contexts. Suitable for students wishing to develop more advanced skills in evaluation.

ANTHRO 732: Reading Medical Ethnography [check on SSO]

Examines the social and anthropological practice of ethnography of health and illness in community and clinical settings, including 'non-western' and 'Western' cultural contexts, through critical readings of recent ethnographies in medical anthropology. Considers ethnographic and anthropological theory, ethics, methodology and application.

GEOG 714: Population, Motilities & Health [check on SSO]

An exploration of the contested concept of place and relationships between place and identity, health status and service provision.