

Honors Designation

Honors in Research

The goal of the designation, M.D. with Honors in Research is to recognize excellence in biomedical research by students enrolled at the Medical College. To obtain the honors designation, the student must successfully complete a clinical or laboratory research project undertaken at Weill Cornell or one of its affiliated medical centers and be supervised by a faculty member of the Medical College or respective faculty. If the laboratory or research project was part of an Extended Curriculum for Research (ECR) that was approved to be conducted at a non-affiliated institution, it will also be considered. The project, which must have approval by the chairperson of the participating department and the faculty supervisor, as described below, may be undertaken at any time during the student's tenure in the Medical College. The student's time commitment to the research may vary from elective periods undertaken during the academic years, to research performed during summer vacations, to satisfy the requirement for the Area of Concentration scholarly project or to full-time involvement in research undertaken during a one- or two-year ECR. The honors designation will be based on a SINGLE submitted manuscript. It is NOT an aggregate award.

Awarding of the degree of M.D. with Honors in Research will be based upon the quality of one manuscript written and submitted by the student. The submission should be a scientific paper of quality suitable for publication in a major scientific journal. NOTE: If the student wishes their submission to represent the output of multiple projects, they must be synthesized into a single coherent paper suitable for publication on its own. Papers are ordinarily submitted early in early January of the year of the expected degree by the due date set by the Office of Curriculum and Educational Development. The faculty supervisor of the sponsoring department must endorse the report and submit a supporting letter. The Office Curriculum and Educational Development of will then forward the paper and supporting documents to the chairperson of the Honors in Research Committee. The paper will be reviewed by the Honors in Research committee, which is appointed by the Dean, and is led by the Assistant Dean of Medical Student Research. This committee will award the honors designation. This committee will have final authority in recommending students to the Dean for the degree of M.D. with Honors in Research. The determination of the Student Research Committee in recommending students to the Dean for this award is final and not subject to appeal. If awarded, the student's diploma and transcript will indicate that the student achieved an "M.D. with Honors in Research."

All M.D. students are eligible to apply. M.D.-Ph.D. students are also eligible as long as the submitted research was performed during medical school (and not while in graduate school for their Ph.D.) and is an independent project that is not included in the Ph.D. dissertation.

Honors in Service

The designation of M.D. with Honors in Service encourages students with an interest in and commitment to community service to develop their interest and abilities in service to the community and to recognize excellence in their achievement. The Honors designation, "M.D. with Honors in Service," will appear on the student's diploma and transcript.

Students eligible for the Honors in Service designation are exceptional in their dedication to community service and the responsibility they accept to further this activity. Their projects require special individual efforts, and their accomplishments stand out among their peers. Their work represents exceptional efforts to address real needs in partnership with persons and groups in the community. In addition, their process involves strategic implementation of effort or resources, followed by reflection on outcomes and subsequent adjustments. They take a scholarly approach to their work and demonstrate innovation and initiative. These outstanding projects may serve as the foundation of a scholarly and productive career in health research, administration, or public policy. Such students are invited to apply for Honors in Service.

The requirement for the designation of M.D. with Honors in Service has three components:

- a time and commitment component; and
- an original Honors in Service paper that addresses:
 - Program description (population served; location; the need addressed by the service; partnership with the community)
 - Impact statement inclusive of impact of the service on the student as well as the impact of the service on the community
- a letter of recommendation from an involved faculty member who can attest to the student's efforts and accomplishments in service. This letter/evaluation should address
 - **Leadership:** clear description of leadership-level responsibility for a program/activity for at least one full year.
 - **Innovation:** Describe how the student's effort and innovation led to one or more of the following:
 - improvement of an existing program/activity; or
 - development of a new program/activity that has gained acceptance or success; or
 - sustainability of the program/activity; or
 - in the case of a program/activity that was no longer achieving its mission, termination, for valid reasons, of the program/activity; or
- - **Commitment:** Describe how the student's commitment led to sustained success of the program or to the program's transformation.

The Honors in Service Committee, appointed by the Dean, includes the Assistant Dean for Access, Belonging and Student-Centered Success (Co-Chair), the Associate Dean of Student Affairs (Co-Chair), and the Community Service Program Coordinator. Other faculty members are appointed by the co-Chairs to help review applications.

Students in the graduating class will receive notification of the call for applications. Students interested in this process should attend to the email and follow instructions regarding faculty nomination, letter of recommendation and the Honors in Service paper.

The Committee will make recommendations to the Dean regarding those students who have met the requirements for receiving the designation M.D. with Honors in Service at Commencement. The decision of the Committee is final.