Medical Studies
Medical Studies allows students to meet the prerequisites for a variety of health professions programs (medicine, dentistry, physician assistant [PA], etc.) and prepares students for required post-graduate entrance exams, including the revised medical college admissions test (MCAT).

Students can customize the Medical Studies degree to meet the prerequisites of the health professions programs for which they intend to apply. Students have the opportunity to learn directly from healthcare providers, and can select clinically related internships or electives during their junior year.

This degree integrates communication, ethics, critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership, which are essential competencies for members of today’s healthcare team.

Honors Courses & Honors Enrichment Contracts
CHS students can additionally receive honors course credit through the Honors Enrichment Contract. Students wishing to receive honors credit should confer with the course instructor at the beginning of the semester to develop a mutually acceptable plan for the honors contract activity. Most contracts involve either a project that extends the ideas and techniques covered in the course or outside research on relevant topics. Students have the responsibility to apply for the honors contract through the Barrett Honors College via the student’s MyASU page.

The Honors College contacts the instructor to approve the contract only after the student has initiated the process. The following link provides more information and deadlines: https://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts

Non-CHS Honors Courses
These courses are designated by the department offering a specific course. The following courses are included or are closely related courses in the MED curriculum and offer Honors Sections: BIO 181, ENG 102, ENG 105, MAT 265.

To receive honors credit, students must enroll in that designated section, with the exception of ENG 105, which can be any in-person class.
**Honors Electives in Medical Studies**
MED Honors students may use 492 Honors Research/493 Honors Thesis as upper division electives with credit towards the MED degree, if approved.

**Honors Internship Opportunities**
Information about Honors internship opportunities available through Barrett can be found here: [http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/internships/](http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/internships/).

The **MED 484 internship** is also a viable option for MED students, and is available for honors credit via Honors Enrichment Contract.

**Special Opportunities: Study Abroad**
Students may select honors contracts for Study Abroad offerings. The College of Health Solutions offers honors contracts for programs in London and Florence in 2017.

**Research & Thesis Opportunities**
Medical Studies faculty advise students in clinical and research opportunities on a wide array of topics relevant to personal interests and professional goals. Positions may entail volunteer work, clinical experiences, academic research and broader learning experiences. These opportunities may be potential Honors thesis or creative projects. Course credit for independent research is available (MED 499).

**Honors Thesis in Medical Studies (MED)**
The thesis may be completed one of two ways within MED: as a supplement to the MED internship course or as an independent study (research, clinical, creative project) under the mentorship of a MED faculty member (Thesis Director).

1. Internship: Upon approval, the thesis may be completed as part of the student’s MED 484 experience. In most cases, the Thesis Director will be the advisor for the Internship Project. Students must do something extra for their project, such as more extensive literature review, additional experiments, additional analysis, or a discussion of the social/economic/environmental impact of their project.

2. Independent Study: the thesis is an independent project performed under the mentorship of MED faculty. In both cases, the student should enroll for the appropriate credit hours (see below).

Committee Structure: the minimum number of committee members is two, one of which must be the Thesis Director, who must be an ASU faculty member (i.e. tenure-line faculty, research faculty, lecturer, professor of practice). The second committee member may be faculty or non-faculty, depending on the decision of the Thesis Director or the academic unit of the director. A third committee member is not needed unless specified by the director or the academic unit of the director OR unless an external examiner is added (who will be a third committee member).
Enrolling for Honors Thesis in MED
It is highly recommended the student identify a Thesis Director and meet to discuss the proposed thesis a semester before they intend to start.

Thesis work spans 2 semesters, 6 credits:
• Semester I – MED 492 Honors Directed Study (3 credits)
• Semester II – MED 493 Honors Thesis (3 credits)

Thesis credits must be taken in sequence and cannot be taken together in a single semester, though an intervening semester may be allowed.

MED thesis credits are taken with approval from a sponsoring MED faculty member. If your thesis director is from outside MED you will work with the advising office of that unit and enroll in department specific credit (ex. Biology faculty for director = BIO 492/493).

Prior to enrolling in MED 492 or 493, students must complete a thesis/creative project information session by completing any of the following:

- HON 498 “Thesis Prep Course,” a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus;
- One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett;
- The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard;
- After completing the information session, MED students can enroll for Honors Thesis credits by completing the appropriate form and submitting it to their MED advisor by the drop/add deadline.

Tips

- Explore Barrett Resources: Barrett has excellent online resources outlining the Honors Thesis projects. A guidebook can be found at: [http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/](http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/)
- Attend a Thesis Workshop: Barrett also arranges several workshops throughout the semester to help you get started with your thesis and to de-mystify the thesis process.
- Talk to MED Faculty: faculty have experience mentoring students on the Honors Thesis and can guide you through the process and advise you on what you might expect.
- Review past thesis documents: Barrett Honors College has a library of documents previously prepared by Honors students. These are an excellent resource to help plan the structure of your document. You can schedule an appointment to view past projects in the Barrett Thesis Library by contacting the Barrett Advising Office at barrettadvising@asu.edu or 480-965-9155.
- Attend thesis defenses: Every student publicly presents thesis outcomes as part of a defense. Attending a defense before you do your own will help you prepare and give you a sense of how to present your outcomes as well as the kinds of questions you might expect. A schedule of upcoming defenses can be found at: [http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creativeproject/defense-calendar/](http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creativeproject/defense-calendar/)
- Talk to other MED and CHS Honors students: If they are currently going through the thesis process, or preparing for it, talking to other students can help plan for your thesis.
- Talk to the MED or CHS Faculty Honors Advisors or Advising Staff.
Financial Support for the Honors Thesis in MED
Barrett has support and funding for Honors Thesis work:
- Thesis Funding – Students may apply to receive up to $500 to complete their thesis to cover materials and supplies needed to complete the project.
- Honors Project Fund – Typically used for non-thesis related expenses such as presenting a paper at a conference or attending an annual meeting related to your major to cover such costs as travel, hotel, conference registration and supplies.
- External Examiners Program – As part of the thesis defense, students can apply to bring in an outside examiner or expert from another institution to serve as a thesis committee member. Students may receive up to $1500 toward associated expenses, such as airfare and hotel.

Example Honors Thesis schedule
Junior Year or sooner!
End of Spring Semester
- Find a faculty member to advise you on your Honors Thesis (the Thesis Director); begin discussing possible projects
- Enroll in MED 492 for 3 credits

Senior Year
Start of Fall Semester
- Work with your Thesis Director to define your project and formulate an action plan for the project (the Prospectus).
- Prepare your Prospectus and submit to Barrett. See http://barretthonors.asu.edu/2011/02/prospectus/

Fall Semester / End of Fall Semester
- Complete background review for project
- Enroll in MED 493 for 3 credits

Beginning of Spring Semester
- Continue working on project and begin preparing thesis document

Before Spring Break
- Complete first draft of the thesis document and submit to Thesis Director for initial review
- Schedule your thesis defense - remember this is your responsibility – by completing the Thesis/Creative Project Defense Reporting Form
- Note that a draft of the thesis should be sent to the entire committee for review at least two weeks before your defense

After Spring Break
- Prepare for your defense
- Hold defense; following a successful outcome, have Signature Title Page signed by all committee members
- Make any necessary changes to the thesis document based on feedback from committee

Early April - Submit final thesis document to Barrett!
Faculty Honors Advisor, Medical Studies:
Alison Essary, DHSc, MHPE, PA-C
Director, Strategic Academic Initiatives, College of Health Solutions; Associate Director, School for the Science of Health Care Delivery; Program Coordinator, Medical Studies
Dr. Essary serves as Director of Strategic Academic Initiatives for the College of Health Solutions, and Associate Director and Clinical Associate Professor in the School for the Science of Health Care Delivery at Arizona State University (ASU).
Her teaching interests encompass leadership and professionalism, historical and contemporary issues in health, and primary care and prevention strategies. She conducts health services research, with a focus on workforce development. She currently serves as the ASU PI for the NIH-funded BUILDing SCHOLARS program (Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity: Southwest Consortium of Health-Oriented education Leaders and Research Scholars).
Dr. Essary serves as Chair, General Studies Council at Arizona State University. On a national level, she serves as a scientific reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and grant review committee member for HRSA.
Prior to joining ASU, she was Director of the Midwestern University Physician Assistant Program where she developed the first post-graduate PA fellowship in academic medicine.
She holds a joint appointment as Clinical Associate Professor with the Northern Arizona University Department of Physician Studies.

Barrett Honors Faculty, Medical Studies:
https://chs.asu.edu/programs/schools/school-science-health-care-delivery
1. Bettie Coplan, MPAS, PA-C
2. Denis Cortese, MD
3. Bradley Doebbeling, MD
4. Alison C. Essary, DHSc, MHPE, PA-C
5. Ellen Green, PhD
6. Mac McCullough, MPH, PhD
7. Swapna Reddy, MPH, JD
8. Adrienne White, MS
9. Kristen Will, MHPE, PA-C
10. Natalia Wilson, MD