The UNC- Chapel Hill Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation is a creative, rigorous, mentored program that will launch qualified nursing undergraduates on a seamless path to the PhD in nursing. This degree will enable graduates to become nurse researchers, clinical scholars and the healthcare innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

The opportunity to become a Hillman Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill is highly competitive. Students eligible for admission to the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation must be an applicant to the Accelerated BSN program, an applicant to the BSN program, or a current student in the undergraduate nursing program with at least two semesters remaining before graduating with your BSN. Students must complete and submit all required Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation application materials. Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and knowingly commit to a professional nursing career that includes research, innovation, and leadership.

Carefully read and follow the School of Nursing application instructions below; each element described is a required facet of the application.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: Applications for the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation are accepted on the following dates:

- November 10th for spring matriculation
- March 31st for summer matriculation

Materials to be submitted by the deadline: Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation Application Form*, three letters of recommendation with the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation Recommendation Form*, statement of Goals and Research Interest, CV, and sample of Scholarly Work.

Part I

- **Academic Transcripts:** Transcripts will be extracted from your BSN or ABSN application portfolio. Hillman applicants do not need to resubmit any transcripts. Of interest is the applicant’s academic history since high school, and performance in science courses.
  - Students must have earned a 3.3 cumulative GPA.
  - Students must also have earned a GPA of 3.4 in all required upper division nursing courses. The nursing GPA of 3.4 must then be maintained throughout the second Honors course.

- **Letters of Recommendation:** Three letters of reference are required for each applicant. Ensure that your recommender includes the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation Recommendation Form* with their letter. At least two letters of recommendation are needed from faculty members whose classes you have taken. Choose faculty who are familiar with your intellectual ability, academic achievement, research potential, and professional commitment, and ask them to speak to these qualities. The third reference must be submitted by an individual who knows you sufficiently that he/she can
Part II

• **Statement of Goals and Research Interests:** The PhD program at the UNC-CH School of Nursing is a research-oriented program. You will be matched with a research faculty mentor from the School and/or the broader University in your first semester in the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation. Throughout the undergraduate curriculum you will be guided by your mentor to select a research topic. This process will be further influenced by work in individual courses and the Honors project.

You are asked to write and submit an integrated essay as follows. It is most important that you address each bulleted item noted and format the document as requested. This document will serve as the foundation for your interview.

  o Tell the Admissions Committee about your background, highlighting prior research experiences and professional, practical, and/or research realms that have prepared you for doctoral study.
  o Describe your professional goals and how a PhD in Nursing will impact your career path.
  o Identify specific issues that you expect to face in making the transition from undergraduate to doctoral study, and how do you plan to handle them.
  o Describe your personal and/or academic strengths and challenges that may impact your success in an accelerated PhD program.
  o Provide a brief, referenced review of the literature about a research and/or clinical topic that you think is in need of further study. Provide details concerning your prior work on the topic, if any, and how you might build on this earlier effort during doctoral study.
  o Identify one or two School of Nursing Faculty who share common interests, and with whom you might like to work closely. Faculty may be identified by following this link and perusing faculty interests. [http://nursing.unc.edu/doctoral-program/faculty-advisors-research/](http://nursing.unc.edu/doctoral-program/faculty-advisors-research/)

The essay should be approximately five double-spaced, typed pages, using no less than size 11 font with one-inch margins. Referenced works may be listed on a separate page.

• **Curriculum Vitae:** This document should be current and detail your education and career path, explaining any gap in employment or study greater than one year. Please review the CV template provided and make sure that your CV includes all relevant information outlined in the template.

• **Scholarly Work:** Choose the best sample of your written work for submission. Documents may include a course paper, a completed research project, unpublished paper, published paper (first author) or other published work.

Part III

• **Interview:** Any applicant who meets the minimum GPA requirements, submits a complete application by the deadline, and is a current or newly admitted student in the undergraduate nursing program will be interviewed by members of the Hillman Admissions Committee in person or virtually depending on
the applicant’s geographical location. The interview is an opportunity for both parties to clarify information submitted in the application portfolio and further explore applicants’ fit to the program. A panel of committee members will conduct the interview, which will be filmed.

**Basis for Decisions**
Admission to the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation is a selective process. Meeting the criteria does not ensure admission. Using an objective review procedure, the Hillman Admissions Committee and the Doctoral Admissions Committee carefully evaluate all aspects of the portfolio in selecting candidates. The Committees consider the quality of performance in previous academic study, success in previous employment and other pertinent experiences, and personal qualifications including suitability for advanced study and research. The Admissions Committees weigh the applicant’s accomplishments and potential for success to progress through the pre-licensure BSN program and directly into the PhD Program. Diversity in student backgrounds and scholarly interests is desired.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national origin, age, religion, sexual preference, or handicap. Members of racial or ethnic minority groups and males are encouraged to apply.

**Notification of Decision**
The Admissions Committee only reviews complete applications. Your application portfolio is not deemed complete until all application materials are received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that application materials have been received by the Office of Student Affairs by the posted deadline. Contact the Office of Student Affairs with all application concerns via hillman@unc.edu.

The School of Nursing will notify you in writing of the outcome of your application’s review as soon as decisions are rendered. Be sure to notify the School of Nursing (hillman@unc.edu) should you have any changes to your contact information after submitting your application.

Applicants offered admission are expected to respond in writing within ten business days. Following admission acceptance, additional information will be shared regarding research mentor, plan of study, funding, and resources specific to program transition. In the semester prior to the culmination of the BSN portion of the program, a modified Dual Bachelors to Doctoral Program Application will be completed for submission to the Dean of the Graduate School.

**Good Luck!**

*Items marked are available on the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation Application Page: http://nursing.unc.edu/hillman/hillman-scholars-application/*