Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation

Nursing.unc.edu/hillman

The UNC Chapel Hill Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation prepares nurse scholars with the substantive and methodological knowledge, vision and personal acumen to study, lead, change and shape the future of health care.

The Hillman Scholars Program places students on the path to a PhD in nursing after they enter the undergraduate program. By integrating the nursing education traditionally associated with the BSN program with advanced study as nurse scientists and innovative leaders, the program prepares scholars to influence health care beginning early in their careers.

UNC joins the universities of Pennsylvania and Michigan, as the only three U.S. schools of nursing that are part of the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation.

Scholars: Each year, six Hillman Scholars are selected from students in the School of Nursing’s undergraduate program.

Length: The Program can be completed in five to six years. After Scholars finish BSN requirements, the PhD program can be completed in approximately three to four years.

Degrees: Hillman Scholars will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a PhD in Nursing. They will also take the licensing exam required to be an RN.

Funding: The School of Nursing receives $3 million over five years from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation, a New York-based philanthropy dedicated to improving the lives of patients and their families through nurse-led innovations. Learn more at www.rahf.org.

Leadership: The program is directed by Cheryl B. Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN, an Associate Professor, Chair of the School’s Division of Health Care Environments and Research Fellow at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC. Dr. Jones is a recognized leader in nursing and health services research, having devoted her career to improving our understanding of nursing workforce issues and their influence on the organization, delivery, quality and financing of nursing and health care.

Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP, serves as the Research and Policy Advisor to the Program. She is the Director of the North Carolina Health Professions Data System and Director of the Health Workforce Research and Policy Unit at the Cecil G. Sheps Center. Together, Drs. Jones and Fraher foster collaborations and build relationships that enable Scholars to participate in a variety of research, academic and professional activities.
**Curriculum:** The Hillman Scholars Program incorporates innovative educational approaches and clinical experiences to prepare future scholars. Highly interactive seminars assist scholars in integrating the knowledge and skills of reflective practice and scientific discovery. Courses combining clinical and research experiences help scholars address important practice problems that have policy relevance.

**Mentorship:** Mentors from within the School of Nursing and throughout UNC guide the Hillman Scholars from their undergraduate honors research project through their PhD dissertation. Hillman Scholars are embedded in their mentors’ interdisciplinary research programs throughout their program of study.

**About the School:**
- The UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing is ranked fourth for Best Graduate School Rankings, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

  - The School of Nursing offers a rich and diverse environment for interdisciplinary and clinical research. The School is part of UNC’s strong health sciences division and is just steps from UNC Hospitals. School faculty members participate in many of the more than 121 interdisciplinary research centers, institutes and initiatives at UNC.

  - The School of Nursing and its faculty maintain partnerships with leading health care and community organizations across the state and nation.

  - The School’s own Biobehavioral Laboratory houses tools for evaluating a wide range of biological and behavioral measures.

**Applying:** Applications are typically due in the fall of each year. More information, including the application deadline, is online at [http://nursing.unc.edu/hillman/](http://nursing.unc.edu/hillman/).

**Eligible applicants include:**
- UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing BSN students admitted to the May cohort just preceding the Hillman Scholars application deadline.

  - Students who have applied to the ABSN cohort for January matriculation following the Hillman Scholars application deadline.

**Financial support:** Each Hillman Scholar will receive a forgivable education loan for the undergraduate nursing program plus doctoral training support for three years.

**More information:** Please e-mail hillman@unc.edu or contact the School of Nursing Office of Student Affairs at 919-966-4260.