

Policy: Strand Honors Criteria

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
July 2025	July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strand Leaders Subcommittee

POLICY STATEMENT

Students can receive Honors (H) designations for exceptional performance in each of the five Strands of the curriculum. Strand Honors are based on individual strand criteria as outlined below (see Honors Criteria below), and are selected based on the process outlined in Procedure: Strand Honors. Strand Honors are noted on students' Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).

Class of 2026

Honors Criteria: Human Biology and Disease

Summary

The Foundational Sciences honorable mention recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance and excel in critical thinking, diagnostic reasoning, and engagement following completion of the Periods 1 and 2 courses listed.

List of Contributing Courses

Period 1

BMS 6001 Genes, Molecules, and Cells
 BMS 6100 Structure of the Human Body
 BMS 6500 Integrated Functions of the Human Body
 BMS 6603 Pathology and Infectious Disease
 BMS 6400 Pharmacology

Period 2

BMS 6636 Cardiovascular and Respiratory System
 BMS 6631 Hematopoietic and Lymphoreticular Systems
 BMS 6643 Integumentary System: The Skin
 BMS 6635 Musculoskeletal Systems
 BMS 6634 Gastrointestinal System and Nutrition
 BMS 6632 Endocrine System
 BMS 6637 Reproductive System
 BMS 6638 Renal System
 BMS 6636 Nervous System and Behavior I
 BMS 6840 Nervous System and Behavior II

Criteria

- Completion of all courses listed above; with a grade average equal to or above 85.

- Outstanding performance in critical thinking, diagnostic reasoning, and engagement. Criteria and point system for these categories are provided in the table below.
- Exhibits consistent professional behavior according to the guidelines in the student handbook with no adverse actions from the Medical Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (MSEPC).

Students who meet the aforementioned criteria and are in the top 15% of the class for at least two out of the three criteria listed below at the end of Period 2 will receive the Foundational Sciences Strand Honor.

Criteria	Point system	Notes
Critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning: small group case-based learning (CBL)	CBL Facilitators may select one to two students who demonstrate exemplary diagnostic and/or critical thinking. Coordinators assign one point to each student selected in each CBL session.	Coordinators need to include a section in the evaluation rubric for facilitator selection. Facilitators must turn in their selection at the end of each case. Facilitators cannot select more than two students per group, per session.
Critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning: written exams/ assignments	Students who perform in the top 10% of the class receive one point per written exam or assignment.	Course director may grant a point to a student who is not in the top 10% but shows exemplary reasoning skills.
Course Director special mention: engagement	At the end of each course, course directors award 1 point to students who deserve a special mention for course engagement (up to 10 students per course).	Engagement criteria may include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplary class participation that contributes to group learning. • Inquisitive attitude inside and outside classroom. • Collaborative approach and positive attitude during group discussions, flipped classroom, etc. • Assignments, portfolios, etc. Course directors should submit selected students to coordinators following completion of each course.

Honors Criteria: Medicine and Society Strand

Summary

Students receiving honorable mention in the Medicine and Society Strand have demonstrated the capacity to excel with interprofessional teamwork as well as with their understanding of ethics in medicine and of the social determinants of health. They have contributed with community service in respective NeighborhoodHELP neighborhoods with an engaged spirit that goes above and beyond what is expected of them. Additionally, these students have the attributes of professionalism,

empathy, humility, and social accountability. They are poised to leave an impact on the value of health equity and social justice in the healthcare arena.

List of Contributing Courses

BMS 6826 Ethical Foundations of Medicine
BMS 6827 Foundations for the Community Engaged Physician
BMS 6071 Community Engaged Physician 1 (CEP 1)
MDC 6102 Community Engaged Physician 2 (CEP 2)
MDC 6103 Community Engaged Physician 3 (CEP 3)
MDE 7059 Community Medicine Practicum

Criteria

- Final scores in Medicine and Society courses of Pass, with numerical scores of 95% or greater, where applicable
- NeighborhoodHELP Visit Performance Assessments that have strong narrative comments and ratings that meet or exceed expectations
- Finalist (Top 4 teams) of the Community Research Paper in CEP 1
- Community Medicine Practicum service hours greater than two standard deviations from the mean number of hours per student by the end of Period 2
- Exhibits consistent professional behavior according to the guidelines in the student handbook with no adverse actions from the Medical Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (MSEPC).

Honors Criteria: Professional Development Strand

Summary

Students achieving Honorable mention in the Professional Development Strand have demonstrated outstanding academic performance and personal and professional attributes required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth.

List of Contributing Courses

BMS 6891 Professional Behavior I
BMS 6892 Professional Behavior II
BMS 6820 Humanism and Medical Jurisprudence
BMS 6880 Clinical Epidemiology and Quantitative Research
BMS 6064 End of Life Care
BMS 6066 Evidence-Based Medicine & Complementary Integrative Medicine
BMS 6067 System Based Practice
BMS 7810 Core Concepts in Medicine
MDE 7067 Professional Development and Clinical Medicine Capstone
MDR 7910 Research Scholarship

Criteria

- Grades
- Passed all PD courses on first attempt
- Overall numeric grade for all courses of the Strand in the top 15 percentile
- Professionalism
- No significant unprofessional behaviors



- No MSEPC hearings
- No Professional Incident Reports (PIR)
- No non-excused absences
- Wellness
- Participation in FIT & Well activities: at least 3 sessions for year 1, 5 sessions for year 2, and 2 sessions for year 3
- Professional Attributes
- Demonstrated compassion, integrity, and respect for others: faculty course evaluations and CASP
- Community Medicine Practicum service hours greater than two standard deviations from the mean number of hours per student by the end of Period 2

Honors Criteria: Clinical Medicine Strand

Summary

Students earning Honors in the Clinical Medicine Strand have demonstrated outstanding clinical performance throughout the four-year curriculum. These students excel in their ability to obtain and document a comprehensive and patient-centered history and physical exam, to apply sound clinical reasoning to develop and prioritize a differential diagnosis to interpret diagnostic studies, and to integrate evidence-based medicine and patient preferences in developing shared and clinically sound management plans.

List of Contributing Courses

Clinical Skills I, including Primary Care Preceptorship I
Clinical Skills II, including Primary Care Preceptorship II
Surgery Clerkship
Family Medicine Clerkship
Internal Medicine Clerkship
Psychiatry Clerkship
Ob/Gyn Clerkship
Pediatrics Clerkship
Radiology Clerkship
Neurology Clerkship

Criteria

- Passed all OSCEs (CS1, CS2, EOTYO, Clerkship OSCEs) on the first attempt.
- Passed all Clinical Medicine Strand courses on the first attempt.
- Passed all clerkship subject exams on the first attempt.
- Had no issues resulting in the loss of professionalism points (in any of the courses listed).
- Consistent demonstration of professional behavior according to the guidelines in the student handbook with no adverse actions from the Medical Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (MSEPC).

Of those meeting the criteria above, the Clinical Medicine Strand Honors Committee will select no more than 15 percent of the class to receive this recognition.

Honorable Criteria: Research Strand



Summary

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM) is particularly prideful of those medical students seeking opportunities to better understand, use, and conduct research designed to improve human health. These experiences are instrumental in helping a student learn how to function as a critical thinker and hypothesis-builder as a practicing physician. Students achieving “Honors, with Distinction in Research” will have demonstrated outstanding scholarly performance in research-related activities during their four-years at HWCOM.

Main courses

BMS 6991 – Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine I

BMS 6066 – Evidence Based-Medicine and Complimentary & Integrative Medicine

MDR 7910 – Research Scholarship Course

Criteria

- Passed all mandatory HWCOM courses on the first attempt.
- Passed all clerkship subject exams on first attempt.
- Has no professionalism concerns.
- Has demonstrated evidence of outstanding scholarly performance in a research activity as described below:
 - o May be curricular or extracurricular research.
 - o Must have been initiated after matriculation at HWCOM.
 - o Cannot have been a requirement of any prior graduate-level degree program (i.e., MBA, MPH, MSc, or PhD).
 - o Resulted in scholarly dissemination:
 - Oral or poster presentation by the student at a national or international conference, AND
 - Listed as co-author on a manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
 - o Student made a substantial contribution to all the following:
 - a. Formulation of the research hypothesis
 - b. Design of the study
 - c. Data acquisition and analysis
 - d. Preparation of the scholarly products (poster or oral presentation, AND manuscript)

Of those meeting the criteria above, the Research Strand Honors Committee, consisting of key faculty of HWCOM, will select up to the top 10 percent of the class to receive this recognition.

Strand Honors (CO2027 and Subsequent Cohorts)

Honors Criteria: Human Biology and Disease Strand

Summary

The Human Biology and Disease Strand honorable mention recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance and excel in critical thinking, diagnostic reasoning, and engagement following completion of the Academic Years 1 and 2 courses listed.

List of Contributing Courses

Foundations

BMS 6001 Foundations I
BMS 6041 Foundations II
BMS 6042 Foundations III

Organ Systems

BMS 6047 Organ Systems I
BMS 6045 Organ Systems II
BMS 6040 Organ Systems III
BMS 6633 Organ Systems IV
BMS 6046 Organ Systems V

Criteria

- Completion of all courses listed above; with a grade average equal to or greater than 85.
- Outstanding performance in critical thinking, diagnostic reasoning, and engagement. Criteria and point system for these categories are provided in the table below.
- Consistent professional behavior according to the guidelines in the student handbook with no adverse actions from the Medical Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (MSEPC).

Students who meet the aforementioned criteria and are in the top 15 percent of the class for at least two out of the three criteria listed below at the end of Academic Year 2 will receive the Human Biology and Disease Strand Honor.

Criteria	Point System	Notes
Critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning: Small group case-based learning (CBL)	CBL Facilitators may select 1-2 students who demonstrate exemplary diagnostic and/or critical thinking. Coordinators will assign one point to each student selected in each CBL session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinators will include a section in the evaluation rubric for facilitator selection. • Facilitators must turn in their selection at the end of each case. • Facilitators cannot select more than two students per group, per session.
Critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning: Written exams/assignments	Students who perform in the top 10% of the class receive one point per written exam or assignment.	Course director may grant a point to a student who is not in the top 10% but shows exemplary reasoning skills.
Course Director special mention: Engagement	At the end of each course, course directors, in collaboration with unit directors, award one point to students who deserve a special mention for course/unit engagement (up to 10 students per course).	Engagement criteria may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplary class participation that contributes to group learning. • Inquisitive attitude inside and outside of the classroom. • Collaborative approach and positive attitude during group discussions, flipped classroom, etc.



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance on assignments, portfolios, etc. <p>Course directors should submit selected students to coordinators following completion of each course.</p> |
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Honors Criteria: Clinical Medicine Strand

Summary

Students earning Honors in the Clinical Medicine Strand have demonstrated outstanding clinical performance throughout the four-year curriculum. These students excel in their ability to obtain and document a comprehensive and patient-centered history and physical exam, to apply sound clinical reasoning to develop and prioritize a differential diagnosis and to interpret diagnostic studies, and to integrate evidence-based medicine and patient preferences in developing shared and clinically sound management plans.

List of Contributing Courses

Clinical Skills I, including Primary Care Preceptorship I
Clinical Skills II, including Primary Care Preceptorship II
Surgery Clerkship
Family Medicine Clerkship
Internal Medicine Clerkship
Psychiatry Clerkship
Ob/Gyn Clerkship
Pediatrics Clerkship
Radiology Clerkship
Neurology Clerkship

Criteria

- Passed all OSCEs (CS1, CS2, EOTYO, Clerkship OSCEs) on the first attempt.
- Passed all strand courses on the first attempt.
- Passed all clerkship subject exams on the first attempt.
- Had no issues resulting in the loss of professionalism points (in any of the courses listed).

Of those meeting the criteria above, the Clinical Medicine Strand Honors Committee will select up to 15 percent of the class to receive this recognition.

Honors Criteria: Professional Development Strand

Summary

Students earning Honors in the Professional Development Strand have demonstrated outstanding academic performance and personal and professional attributes required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth.

Criteria

- Grades



- Passed all strand courses on the first attempt.
- Achieved an overall numeric grade for all strand courses in the top 15th percentile.
- Professionalism
- No MSEPC hearings regarding professionalism issues.
- No Professional Incident Reports (PIR).
- No unexcused absences.
- Professional Attributes
- No issues with nor failure to submit compliance documents by deadlines required by the Office of Student Affairs.
- Up to date with course requirements for HWCOM Road Map to Residency (R2R) as per the Office of Student Affairs.

Of those meeting the criteria above, the Professional Development Strand Honors Committee will select up to the top 15 percent of the class to receive this recognition.

Honors Criteria: Medicine and Society Strand

Summary

Students earning Honors in the Medicine and Society Strand have demonstrated the capacity to excel at interprofessional teamwork and in their understanding of the social determinants of health. They have contributed to community service in NeighborhoodHELP target neighborhoods with a level of engagement that exceeds expectations. Additionally, these students have the attributes of professionalism, empathy, humility, and social accountability with which they are poised to make an impact in the healthcare arena.

List of Contributing Courses

BMS 6827 Community Engaged Physician I
BMS 6071 Community Engaged Physician II
MDC 6102 Community Engaged Physician III
MDC 6103 Community Engaged Physician IV
MDE 7059 Community Medicine Practicum

Criteria

- Final scores in strand courses of Pass, with numerical scores of 95% or greater, where applicable.
- NeighborhoodHELP Visit Performance Assessments that have strong narrative comments and ratings that meet or exceed expectations.
- Finalist (Top 4 teams) of the Community Research Paper in CEP 2.
- Community Medicine Practicum service hours greater than two standard deviations from the mean number of hours per student by the end of Academic Year 2.
- Consistent demonstration of professional behavior according to the guidelines in the student handbook with no adverse actions from the Medical Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee (MSEPC).

Of those meeting the criteria above, the Medicine and Society Strand Honors Committee will select up to the top 15 percent of the class to receive this recognition.

Honors Criteria: Research Strand

Summary

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM) is particularly proud of those medical students seeking opportunities to better understand, use, and conduct research designed to improve human health. These experiences are instrumental in helping a student learn how to function as a critical thinker and hypothesis-builder as a practicing physician. Students achieving Honors in the Research Strand will have demonstrated outstanding scholarly performance in research-related activities during their four years at HWCOM.

List of Contributing Courses

BMS 6880 Clinical Epidemiology and Quantitative Research*

BMS 6066 Evidence-Based Medicine and Complementary and Integrative Medicine*

MDR 7910 Research Scholarship Course

Class of 2028 ONLY:

BMS 6991 Clinical Research & Evidence-Based Medicine I

BMS XXXX Clinical Research & Evidence-Based Medicine II

**Not applicable to Class of 2028*

Criteria

- Passed all mandatory HWCOM courses on the first attempt.
- Passed all clerkship subject exams on first attempt.
- Has no professionalism concerns.
- Has demonstrated evidence of outstanding scholarly performance in a research activity as described below:
 - May be curricular or extracurricular research.
 - Must have been initiated after matriculation at HWCOM.
 - Cannot have been a requirement of any prior graduate-level degree program (i.e., MBA, MPH, MSc, or PhD).
 - Resulted in scholarly dissemination:
 - Oral or poster presentation by the student at a national or international conference, AND
 - Listed as co-author on a manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
 - Student made a substantial contribution to all of the following:
 - Formulation of the research hypothesis
 - Design of the study
 - Data acquisition and analysis
 - Preparation of the scholarly products (poster or oral presentation, AND manuscript)

Of those meeting the criteria above, the Research Strand Honors Committee will select up to the top 15 percent of the class to receive this recognition.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all HWCOM medical students.

REASON FOR POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline the specific requirements that must be met in order for a student to achieve an Honors designation in each of HWCOM's five curricular strands.

DEFINITIONS

n/a

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Associate Dean of Curriculum and Medical Education
Chair, Strand Leaders Subcommittee

RELATED RESOURCES

Procedure: Strand Honors Criteria

CONTACTS

Questions about this policy should be directed towards the Associate Dean for Curriculum and Medical Education.

HISTORY

List initial effective date, revision dates, and/or review date.

Initial Effective Date: July 2025

Review Dates N/A

Revision Dates July 2025

Procedure: Strand Honors Criteria

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
July 2025	July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strand Leaders Subcommittee

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

At the end of Academic Year 2 for the Human Biology and Disease Strand and at the end of Academic Year 3 for all other Strands, the relevant Strand Leader and Assistant Strand Leader, in conjunction with the Committee as outlined below, identify the students meeting the criteria for Strand Honors as outlined in Policy: Strand Honors Criteria.

The list of students meeting criteria for Strand Honors is included in the annual Strand report, and approved by the Strand Leaders Committee.

Students are notified of their Strand Honors designation by the administrative coordinator for the Strand Leaders Subcommittee.

Class of 2026

Foundational Sciences Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Human Biology and Disease, Illness, and Injury Strands. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including course directors, course faculty, and course staff.

Medicine and Society Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Medicine and Society Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including the course staff, interprofessional colleagues and faculty, and the core NeighborhoodHELP faculty.

Professional Development Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Professional Development Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including course directors, course faculty, and course staff.

Clinical Medicine Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include five HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Clinical Medicine Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including clerkship, course, and unit directors, teaching faculty, and staff.

Research Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include five HWCOM faculty members with experience in research, encompassing different types of research (basic sciences, clinical, epidemiological, medical educational, population-based, or translational).

Class of 2027 and Subsequent Cohorts

Human Biology and Disease Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Human Biology and Disease Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including course and unit directors, teaching faculty, and staff.

Clinical Medicine Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Clinical Medicine Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including clerkship, course, and unit directors, teaching faculty, and staff.

Professional Development Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include five HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Professional Development Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including course and unit directors, course faculty, and course staff.

Medicine and Society Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include HWCOM faculty members teaching in the Medicine and Society Strand. The committee will seek feedback from key stakeholders, including NeighborhoodHELP student-assigned faculty and interprofessional colleagues and faculty.

Research Strand Honors Designation Committee

The committee will include five HWCOM faculty members with experience in research, encompassing different types of research (basic sciences, clinical, epidemiological, medical educational, population-based, or translational).