

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

**Course: HS 140 Legal and Ethical Issues in Healthcare**

**Credits: 3**

**Prerequisites**

None

### **Course Description**

This course will provide an overview of the legal and ethical principles needed for health care workers to give competent and compassionate care to clients. Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care will allow students to develop skills and information literacy through critical-thinking activities, teamwork, collaboration, and a hands-on approach to learning.

The goal for this course will be to provide students with the legal and ethical tools to utilize in building understanding and working toward the resolution of problems that is within acceptable legal and ethical boundaries.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the foundations of law and ethics:
  - Explain why knowledge of law and ethics is important to health care practitioners.
  - Define the relevant terms pertaining to legal and ethical issues in health care.
  - Identify the branches of the judicial court system.
  - Differentiate between civil law and criminal law.
  - Explain the unintentional tort of negligence.
  - List the four essential elements of a contract.
  - Differentiate between expressed contracts and implied contracts.
- Identify legal issues for health care practitioners:
  - Identify three areas of liability.
  - Explain the four criteria necessary to prove negligence.
  - Explain the duties and requirements of health care practitioners concerning confidentiality and privileged communication.
  - Debate the question of whether or not liability insurance is practical for various health care careers.
  - List possible defenses to a liability suit including the Good Samaritan Law.
  - Explain the importance of performing criminal background checks and the implications of negative results.
- Identify professional and social health care issues:
  - Identify three types of reportable injuries and abuse: Child abuse, Domestic abuse and Elder abuse
  - Recognize federal laws regarding discrimination in the workplace.
  - Identify the various organizations that protect the safety and welfare of the health care workers and consumers.

- Investigate the legal requirements and ramifications of the federal and state labor laws.
- Analyze social, ethical, and legal issues pertaining to: Bioethics, Stem cell research, Cloning, Genetics, Genetic engineering, Infertility, Abortion, Rights of minors
- Identify end of life issues:
  - Explain the importance of formulating a plan for the end of life.
  - Compare and contrast a living will, health care proxy, and durable power of attorney, and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR).
  - Identify events concerning right to die issues.
  - Explain the legal and ethical issues of the organ donation process.

### **Topical Outline**

- Unit 1: Foundations of Law and Ethics:
  - Introduction to law and ethics
  - Law and ethics in health care
  - Law, the courts, and contracts
- Unit 2: Legal issues for Health Care Practitioners:
  - Professional liability and medical malpractice
  - Defenses to liability suits
  - Medical records and informed consent
  - Confidentiality (HIPPA)
  - Criminal background checks
- Unit 3: Professional and Social Health Care Issues:
  - Health care professional's public duties and responsibilities
  - Workplace legalities and labor laws
  - Bioethics: Social, ethical, and legal issues
- Unit 4: End of Life Issues:
  - Living Will
  - Durable Power of Attorney
  - Health Care Proxy
  - Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)
  - Organ Donor Directives
  - Euthanasia

### **Required Texts and Other Materials**

Judson, K., Harrison, C., *Law and Ethics for Health Professions*. McGraw-Hill.

### **Student Assessment**

Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report

automatically receives a grade of ZERO and the student may receive a grade of F for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

**Available Resources**

If you are having difficulty with work in this class, tutoring is available through the Success Center. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600, x1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

**(List availability of open labs and/or writing center)**

**Before Withdrawing From This Course**

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.