



## Undergraduate Course Syllabus

### **HCM 420: Ethical and Legal Considerations of Healthcare**

Center: Online

Credits: 3

#### **Course Prerequisites**

Acceptance into the undergraduate program

#### **Course Description**

This course will examine the philosophical and theoretical foundations of ethics for their application to healthcare administrators and development of an ethical community. Students will examine their own values, societal morality, and ethical core in relation to ethical leadership in the ever-changing healthcare landscape where innovation and technology change daily. Students will demonstrate the principles of ethical leadership in discussions and in collaboration with peers.

#### **Course Outcomes**

- Analyze why knowledge of the legal system is important for healthcare professionals, including the distinctions between the law, ethics, and bioethics
- Compare and contrast ethical theories and discuss decision-making models applicable to healthcare providers
- Examine the legal environment in healthcare, including the physician-patient relationship, medical records and patient confidentiality, and professional liability and medical malpractice
- Explore the laws impacting the delivery of healthcare, including HIPAA, the False Claims Act, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and laws impacting the workplace
- Analyze the role of professional regulation, the standard of care, and codes of ethics in healthcare providers' accountability to self, their profession, their patients, and the public
- Analyze specific legal, ethical, and bioethical issues faced by healthcare administrators, providers, and researchers, including protection of life, the right to self-determination, and end-of-life issues

### Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC. ISBN: 9781433805615

Fremgen, B. F. (2012). *Medical law and ethics* (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. ISBN: 9780132559225

### Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with your instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be active in Blackboard at least five days a week, and you will normally communicate with your instructor in the open Blackboard discussion forum so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should send emails directly to your instructor only when you need to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature, and in those cases your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

### Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	8	30	240
Journals	5	40	200
Quizzes	3	50	150
Essays	2	75	150
Final Project	1	150	260
		<b>Total Course Points:</b>	1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

## University Grading System: Undergraduate

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Equivalent</b>	<i>Total Points. 1,000</i>		
		<b>Points</b>	<b>Points Equivalent</b>	
			<i>Lower</i>	<i>Upper</i>
A	93-100	4	930	1000
A-	90-92	3.67	900	929
B+	87-89	3.33	870	899
B	83-86	3	830	869
B-	80-82	2.67	800	829
C+	77-79	2.33	770	799
C	73-76	2	730	769
C-	70-72	1.67	700	729
D+	67-69	1.33	670	699
D	60-66	1	600	669
F	0-59	0	0	599
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
IP	In Progress (past end of term)			
W	Withdrawn			

\*Incomplete and Incomplete/Failure: Any student requesting an "I" grade must complete a Student Petition and Contract for a Grade of Incomplete and submit it to the proper offices prior to the final day of the term/semester. The petition will specify a deadline by which the coursework must be completed. The incomplete automatically becomes an "IF" if work has not been completed and a grade has not been submitted by the specific deadline.

### Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

### Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the last day of the module week.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	<p>Introduction to Healthcare Law, Ethics, and Bioethics</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapter 1</p> <p>1-1 Discussion: Getting Started</p> <p>1-2 Journal: Your Experience With Healthcare</p> <p>1-3 Final Project Review</p>
2	<p>The Legal Environment</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapters 2 and 3</p> <p>2-1 Discussion: In the News</p> <p>2-2 Module Two Quiz</p>
3	<p>The Physician-Patient Relationship, Professional Liability, and Medical Malpractice</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapters 5 and 6</p> <p>3-1 Discussion: Reducing Malpractice Claims</p> <p>3-2 Essay: Negligence Case Analysis</p> <p>3-3 Journal: Planning the Malpractice Case Study</p>
4	<p>The Medical Record, Patient Confidentiality, and HIPAA</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapters 9 and 10</p> <p>4-1 Discussion: Privacy Scenario</p> <p>4-2 Module Four Quiz</p> <p>4-3 Journal: Balancing Privacy and Public Health</p>
5	<p>Ethical Considerations in Healthcare and the Workplace</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapters 4 and 8</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapter 7 (Optional)</p> <p>5-1 Discussion: Epilepsy Case Study</p> <p>5-2 Short Essay: Is There Discrimination?</p> <p>5-3 Journal: Final Project Outline</p>
6	<p>Ethical and Bioethical Issues in Healthcare</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapter 11 (through page 282) and Appendix A (pages 345–348)</p> <p>6-1 Discussion: Bioethics Hot Topics</p>
7	<p>Ethical Issues in Life, Death, and Dying</p> <p><i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapters 12 and 13</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: The Terri Schiavo Case</p> <p>7-2 Module Seven Quiz</p> <p>7-3 Final Project Submission: Medical Malpractice Case Study</p>
8	<p>Healthcare Reform</p> <p>Textbook: <i>Medical Law and Ethics</i>, Chapter 11 (pages 282–284)</p> <p>8-1 Discussion: The Affordable Care Act</p> <p>8-3 Journal: Final Reflections</p>

**Attendance Policy**

Online students are required to post to the Blackboard discussion board during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the discussion board during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

**Late Assignments Policy**

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

**SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Guide to Student Success**

Review the [guide to student success](#).

**Diversity and Disability Statement**

The College of Online and Continuing Education (COCE) at SNHU values diversity and inclusion. SNHU strives to create inclusive and welcoming academic environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion, please notify the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. We will work with you and your instructor to address needs and concerns.

We encourage all students with known or suspected physical, medical, sensory, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in order to assess learning needs and take advantage of available academic accommodations and support services. We look forward to hearing from you. Our contact information is below.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)  
(877) 591-4723 (select option 4)  
(877) 520-8916 (fax)  
[drc@snhu.edu](mailto:drc@snhu.edu)

We welcome COCE students, faculty, and staff to consult with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) on disability-related questions or concerns.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

**Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

**SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

**Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).