

COMP 424 Applied Computing 1: Foundations of Python Programming

Applied Engineering and Sciences Department

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mihaela Sabin, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Science

Contact Information

Email: mihaela.sabin@unh.edu

Phone: 603 641 4144

Office: P121

Student assistance/help hours: By appointment

How to get in touch with me

1. Course-related communication outside class takes place exclusively on the **Discord** server
2. For one-on-one communication, make an appointment using **MyCourses Canvas Inbox** tool.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course web site: <https://mycourses.unh.edu/courses/105773>

Credits: 4

Section: M1

Semester: Spring 2023

Modality: In-person

Class meetings

Times: Thursday, 9-11:50 AM (M1)

Location: P149

Catalog Course Description

Integrates three essential computing competencies: problem solving, data analysis, and programming. Problems are chosen from data-driven real-world examples. Emphasis is on formulating problems, thinking creatively about how computations can solve problems, and expressing solutions clearly and accurately. Using Python, students learn design, implementation, testing, and analysis of algorithms and programs.

Credit Hour Policy

This syllabus reflects the federal definition of **credit hour**, which means 3 hours of **engaged time** per week per credit over a 15-week semester

- 1 cr = 3 clock hours/week
- 4 cr = 12 clock hours/week

Engaged time means all our work in this class

- Attend class meetings
- Do assignments and labs
- Take exams
- Participate in course-related experiences (e.g., working with peers on a team project)
- Work collaboratively in study groups
- Seek tutor help
- Consult and get assistance from the course instructor.

GOALS, COMPETENCIES, and INTEGRITY

Course Goals

The purpose of the course is for you to learn how to solve problems computationally with programming concepts and tools. Learning in this course will help you meet this expectation as you will:

1. Explore answers to a variety of key questions about computing and its relationships with you, other people, society at large, and humankind:
 - What is computing?
 - By whom is computing invented and advanced? And for whom?
 - Why do we use and advance computing?
 - What are the impacts of computing on everyone's life, our society at large, and our planet?
2. Develop problem solving skills
3. Experience a broad range of areas in which we apply computing .
4. Express solutions to problems through programming in Python.

Competencies

Achieving the course learning objectives will help you form the following professional competencies:

- Identify and select appropriate programming concepts to solve computational problems
- Analyze and select appropriate data structures to solve computational problems
- Apply programming patterns and techniques for solving computational problems
- Practice debugging and test-driven programming
- Design and implement data and functional abstractions
- Use problem decomposition to cope with complex problems
- Investigate and critique the pros and cons of computing
- Communicate and collaborate with others to achieve a common goal or solution.
- Reflect on your learning experiences.
- Persist in working with difficult problems
- Adapt, adjust, change course, be flexible as needed
- Tolerate uncertainty and ambiguity
- “Walk in another’s shoes” to learn more about other perspectives, show empathy, consider various points of view, and recognize and avoid bias
- Have confidence in dealing with complexity

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Academic honesty

Also included in the **COURSE POLICIES** section.

1. **Graded individual products** of your learning in this class (e.g., assignment artifacts) **must be entirely done by you**. You cannot submit as yours something done by others or obtained from external sources.
2. **Graded collaborative work** has clear requirements regarding the nature of collaboration. Grading is based on your **individual contribution** to the collaborative work. If unclear, you must consult with the course instructor on what is allowed. It is your responsibility to get such clarification.
3. **Collaboration** is always encouraged. However, be very careful when you seek or offer help. If you have the smallest doubt about whether something is or is not an instance of academic dishonesty, **contact the course instructor immediately**.
4. In cases in which collaboration is allowed or required, **submitted artifacts must include clear attribution to:**
 - **Who the collaborators were**, whether peers, tutors, lab/tech assistants, course instructor,, or any other person (friend, relative, etc.)
 - **What sources or source content** you used, whether forums, public GitHub repos, tutorial videos, etc.
5. **Do not do work on behalf of somebody else** and **do not provide your work products to others**. If you

do, you commit an act of academic dishonesty. There is no way to know whether those who got your work products from you intend to submit them as theirs. Equally important, this is NOT how you help someone learn.

There are very serious repercussions if you deviate from the course and university academic honesty policy:

1. The penalty for the **first occurrence** of an instance of academic dishonesty and plagiarism in this course is **no credit for the graded work** in question. The Program Coordinator will be notified of your misconduct and a letter from the Program Coordinator will be sent to you, course instructor, and your academic advisor.
2. The **second instance** of academic dishonesty in this course is penalized with **failing the course**. The Program Coordinator and Associate Dean of the College (or Associate Dean of Graduate School). A letter from the Program Coordinator will be sent to you, course instructor, and your faculty advisor. The Dean will decide on dismissal from the University.
3. If the first instance of academic dishonesty in this course is your second one in the program of study, the course action described at #2 above will be followed.

Bottom line, **do not plagiarize, do not give your work to others to submit as theirs, and do not collaborate when collaboration is not allowed. When collaboration is allowed, always give proper attribution.** For more information see the *UNH Academic Honesty policy, 90 Academic Honesty*, at <https://catalog.unh.edu/srrr/academic-policies/academic-honesty/>.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Runestone Interactive Online Textbook

Foundations of Python Programming available at <https://runestone.academy/>.

The **Canvas** website for this course has a link to the **Runestone Textbook** site.

Course Materials - Google Drive

Teaching materials and resources reside in a publicly shared Google Drive folder. It includes this syllabus, weekly slides, and other materials. The **Canvas** site for this course has a link to the **Course Materials - Google Drive**.

Communication and Collaboration Tools

Because of the highly collaborative nature of the course, we'll be using a variety of online tools that support collaboration, sharing, and openness.

- **Canvas/MyCourses** for announcements, links to Google Drive Course Repository, Discord, Runestone Interactive Textbook, classmates list, grades, and email communication.
- **Discord** for messaging in and outside class with channels on various subjects.
- **Course materials - Google Drive** for learning resources and other instructional materials
- **Zoom** sessions for the class meetings if campus is closed due to weather or other circumstances
- **GitHub** for coding submissions to the GitHub organization associated with this class (after the midterm)

Development Tools

Your personal laptop (or the laptop loaned from the Computing Program) is the development platform for all the learning activities in this class. You can use the operating system you are more comfortable with: MacOS, Ubuntu or other Linux distribution, or Windows.

The **development tools** you need to have on your machine installed at the global/system level are:

- **bash shell or terminal** (MacOS or Ubuntu) or **git-bash** (Windows 10)
- **Python 3**

- **git** version control
- **PyCharm** and other Python tools integrated with PyCharm, such as the **debugger** and static analysis tools (e.g., **pycodestyle**, **pylint**).

Using your UNH account, you have free access to all JetBrains services and tools, including the **Professional Edition of PyCharm**. You also get access to the GitHub Student Development Pack.

Use of Other Tools

No phone use is permitted in class, unless directed to do so. For example, you may need to use your phone to get access to the phone camera if your laptop does not have a camera and you are in a Zoom session that requires video on. Unless otherwise specified, the use of automated writing tools, such as chatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is strictly prohibited in this course, even when properly attributed. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism (as defined by SRRR 9.3) and will be handled in accordance with existing policy.

Student Lab Assistance

The **Computing Program** in the **Department of Applied Engineering and Sciences** has student lab assistants who are available to help with software configuration, troubleshooting, and other technical questions you might have. Their schedule and contact information will be posted on the door of the tech consultancy workroom, Rm 124.

Center for Academic Enrichment (CAE) Tutoring Services

The Center for Academic Enrichment (CAE) is a free resource for all students enrolled in UNH Manchester courses, as well as alumni with writing for graduate school applications and career seeking. Students are entitled to 1 hour of free individual tutoring, per course, per week. Make a tutoring appointment and access our services through the CAE myCourses Canvas site, call 603-641-4113 or email unhm.cae@unh.edu.

CAE tutors are well-prepared to assist with questions, lab and homework assignments, and Python programming. Please make use of one-on-one tutoring sessions.

Academic alerts to support your success

The University is invested in your academic success. If I am concerned about your academic behavior or performance, I may submit an **academic alert**. Academic alerts are not punitive. The goal is to provide you with support and resources to support your success. They act as an important check-in point and, if you receive an academic alert, you will receive an email to your UNH email address. It is strongly recommended that you meet with a professional advisor and connect with your instructor to discuss the reason for the alert.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Outside Class Learning

You are expected to study 6-9 hours outside class every week. Outside class time is dedicated to independent and collaborative study to work on and complete your assignments, reflect on and evaluate your learning experience, and participate in ongoing communication on the Discord server. You will also use outside class time to develop and feature your artifacts using Github repositories in the GitHub org associated with this class (for coding and coding-related artifacts, such as Markdown files).

In-Class Learning

Weekly class meetings are dedicated to presentations, discussions, live coding, working in pairs or small groups, and reflections. Therefore, teaching won't be based on lecturing. The same communication, collaboration, and development tools you use outside class will be used during class meeting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation (priceless)

In-class learning encouraged and supports everyone's participation. Outside class learning benefits from conversations on the **Discord's** channels. Join Discord at <https://discord.gg/ACPxPvKKF9>.

Active Reading (10%)

Reading assignments are excellent opportunities to actively engage with the course content every week through various activities such as answering multiple-choice questions, writing short answers or filling in the blank, and coding exercises. The reading assignments are auto-graded. Reading assignments are **entirely your own individual work**. They are due the midnight BEFORE the scheduled class meeting and are NOT accepted after the deadline.

In-class Projects (10%)

You will engage in collaborative lab and project activities in almost every class. These activities are designed to be started in class. If you don't finish the work in class, you will continue during the week to have the work done before next class. Because of the collaborative nature of the labs and projects, you have to give attribution to peers you've collaborated with as well as to other servicers or persons who helped you.
All labs and projects are due midnight BEFORE the scheduled class meeting and are NOT accepted after the deadline.

Reflections (10%)

Reflecting on and evaluating your learning experience and sharing your perspectives is also valued in this course. Opportunities for reflection are through guided reflections and reflection questionnaires.

Homework Problems (20%)

Solving the homework problems is your own individual work. **No collaboration is allowed** as you prepare the homework artifacts, which include documentation, testing, designs, and implementation of computational solutions. Homework problems are due at the date and time listed in Canvas. If you do not meet the required deadline, **Late Submissions Policy** will apply as explained in the **Course Policies** section.

Examinations (50%)

The examinations are oral exams that assess your problem solving skills, application of concepts, and demonstration of programming techniques. There is a **midterm exam** (20%, 7th week of the semester) and a comprehensive **final exam** (30%, last week of the semester).

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TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This is a **tentative** schedule, subject to change depending on the class pace, student learning needs, and/or unforeseen circumstances, such as power outage because of snow storms. Check the course announcements and emails in **MyCourses** for up-to-date information. See next page.

Wk #	In-class learning:	Outside class learning due Wednesday midnight next week
#1 1/26	Who we are. How to solve problems with computation. Resources tour.	Explore core computational concepts of data, variables, expressions, and statements by doing Active Reading 1 (AR1) .
#2 2/2	Feedback to AR1. Practice with data, variables, expressions, statements. Incremental development. Problem solving strategies: input, compute, output. Getting started on Project 1 .	Explore core computational concepts: more on the assignment statement, <code>input()</code> call, and intro to sequences and functions by doing Active Reading 2 (AR2) . Complete Project 1: Input-Compute-Output (P1) . RQ: Start of the semester reflection.
#3 2/9	Feedback to AR2. Practice with the string and list sequences, and the for loop.	Practice more with core computational concepts of iteration , sequences , and functions by doing Active Reading 3 (AR3) .
#4 2/16	Feedback to AR3. Apply str and list method calls, function definition, and the accumulation pattern to generate various passwords. Getting started on Project 2 . Discuss H1 requirements.	Complete Project 2: Generating Password (P2 , including reflection questionnaire). Explore modules and conditionals by doing Active Reading 4 (AR4) . Do Homework Problems 1 (H1) .
#5 2/23	Feedback to H1 and AR4. More problem solving practice with conditionals, iteration, function definition and calls, and sequences. Getting started on Project 3 : computing stats with Kiva data project.	Complete Project 3: Computing Stats with Kiva Data (P3) . Explore transforming sequences, and more on iteration and conditionals by doing Active Reading 5 (AR5) . Write Reflection 1 (R1) .
#6 3/2	Midterm practice. Discuss H2 requirements.	Do Homework Problems 2 (H2) . Practice debugging by reading Ch 3 Debugging. No graded AR for next week. Review and prepare for the midterm.
#7 3/9	Midterm Exam	
Spring Break, March 13 - March 19		
#8 3/23	Dictionary data structures. Introduction to programming tools.	Complete Active Reading 6 (AR6) .
#9 3/30	Practice with programming tools. More practice with dictionaries and functions. Getting started on Project 4 .	Complete Project 4: Programming Tools Project (including reflection questionnaire). Do Active Reading 7 (AR7) .
#10 4/6	Text file data structure. More practice with transforming collections and programming tools. Getting started on Project 5 .	Complete Project 5: Generating a Password Project Revisited . Do Write Reflection 2 (R2) . Active Reading 8 (AR8) .
#11 4/13	More practice with design, implementation, and testing. Coding style. Markdown documentation. Discuss H3 requirements.	Do Active Reading 9 (AR9) . Do Homework Problems (H3, analysis.py , including reflection questionnaire).
#12 4/20	Review nested iterations. Getting started on Project 6 .	Complete Project 6: Review Files and Dictionaries Project .
#13 4/27	More practice with data structures and programming patterns.	Building programs. More OOP practice. Getting started on Homework Problems 4 (transform.py) .
#14 5/4	Discuss H4 solutions. Review for the final exam. In-class Reflection Questionnaire: Final Thoughts	Review and prepare for the final exam.
#15 5/11	Final Exam	

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Final assessment of your work in this course takes into account the following learning activities:

- **Active Reading** (10%)
- **In-class projects** (10%)

- **Reflections** (10%)
- **Homework problems** (20%)
- **Midterm and final exams** (50%, midterm 20% and final 30%)

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COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Attendance

Class attendance is important for your learning. Attendance is taken every class. **You are responsible for attending all classes.** See the *UNH Attendance and Class Requirements, 04.1 Attendance* policy at <https://catalog.unh.edu/srrr/academic-policies/attendance-class-requirements/> for more information.

In the event that you need accommodation for a religious or cultural holiday/observance, you need to request an excuse for absence by **emailing the instructor as early in the semester as possible.**

If you miss a class, you take the responsibility to do the following **three** steps:

1. **Email the instructor** about the circumstances for missing the class within a week of the absence using MyCourses email.
2. **Contact your peers** to find out what you've missed.
3. **Make up the absence** by doing the work assigned that week.

By NOT taking this responsibility, your final grade will be lowered by **5% for each missed class.**

If missing a deadline is because you are dealing with unexpected and extenuating circumstances, please see the policy on **Temporary Academic Supports for Extended Absences with Letter.**

If your absence might cause a **late submission**, see policy on **Late Submissions** policy below.

Late Submissions

No assignment will be accepted after the deadline and a 0 grade will be entered in the Canvas Grades.

If you are in the situation of missing a deadline because of time constraints or other unexpected circumstances, you **MUST request approval for a time extension.** This means that you **MUST** do the following:

1. **Email the instructor** PRIOR to the deadline (using MyCourses email) to do TWO things:
 - Explain circumstances that prevented you from meeting the submission deadline.
 - Outline plans with firm deadlines for making up the missed requirements.
2. If late submission is approved, make your submission **no later than six days** after the submission deadline.

By NOT taking this responsibility, your grade for the assignment is 0 .

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attribution to:

- **Who the collaborators were**, whether peers, tutors, lab/tech assistants, course instructor (that's me), or any other person (friend, relative, etc.)
- **What sources or source content** you used, whether forums, public GitHub repos, tutorial videos, etc.

5. **Do not do work on behalf of somebody else and do not provide your work products to others.** If you do, you commit an act of academic dishonesty. There is no way to know whether those who got your work products from you intend to submit them as theirs. Equally important, this is NOT how you help someone learn.

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Use of Phones

No phone use is permitted in class, unless directed to do so. For example, you may need to use your phone to get access to the phone camera if your laptop does not have a camera and you are in a Zoom session that requires video on.

Use of Automated Writing Tools or Other AI Tools

Unless otherwise specified, the use of Automated Writing Tools, including chatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is strictly prohibited in this course, even when properly attributed. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism (as defined by SRRR 9.3) and will be handled in accordance with existing policy

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Covid Protocol

It is your responsibility to pay attention to messaging from the University (**RAVE** and **Canvas** and **Email**) in the event that any COVID protocols change. You can always access current COVID protocols and requirements through the Health and Wellness Website: <https://www.unh.edu/health/health-alert-covid-19>.

We all value the health and safety of our Wildcat Community and respect everyone's unique health and risk tolerance. You are welcome to wear a mask in this classroom if you choose. It is your responsibility to obtain a mask before coming to class.

If you are required to be in isolation or quarantine, the Dean of Students will send a letter to all of your instructors. See extended absence policies for temporary academic resources to support your continued

learning in this course if you must miss significant class time.

A valid Wildcat Pass is required to be on campus and in this classroom. Your Wildcat Pass will be invalid if you are supposed to be in isolation or quarantine.

Temporary Academic Supports for Extended Absences with Letter

If you are dealing with an unexpected, extenuating circumstance that will keep you out of class or affect your performance for more than a day or two, reach out to **Stephanie Kirylych, Director of Academic Advising**, at **stephanie.kirylych@unh.edu** to request a letter be sent to all your faculty. **Note:** If you are asked to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 by Health & Wellness, a letter will automatically be sent to your faculty.

If you are required to miss significant class time (e.g., due to required isolation or quarantine), you will be provided temporary academic support so that you can continue to make satisfactory progress in this course. Please **email the course instructor** ([using MyCourses email](#)) to schedule a virtual meeting, if possible, and catch-up on missed content.

Credit Hour Policy

This syllabus reflects the federal definition of **credit hour**, which means **a minimum 3 hours of engaged time per week per credit over a 15-week semester**

- 1 cr = 3 clock hours/week
- 3 cr = 9 clock hours/week
- 4 cr = 12 clock hours/week

Engaged time means **all your work in this class:**

- attend class meetings
- do assignments and labs
- take quizzes, exams
- participate in course-related experiences (e.g., working with peers on a team project)
- work collaboratively in a group study
- seek tutor help
- consult and get assistance from the course instructor.

Academic alerts to support your success

The University is invested in your academic success. If I am concerned about your academic behavior or performance, I may submit an **academic alert**. Academic alerts are not punitive. The goal is to provide you with support and resources to support your success. They act as an important check-in point and, if you receive an academic alert, you will receive an email to your UNH email address. It is strongly recommended that you meet with a professional advisor and connect with your instructor to discuss the reason for the alert.

Accessibility services

The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with the **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** office. The Student Accessibility Coordinator at UNH Manchester is **Jenessa Zurek**. Please reach out to the SAS office via email at **jenessa.zurek@unh.edu** for registration information and disability related questions. Jenessa Zurek is available through phone and email **Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-2pm**.

Expectations of classroom behavior

To ensure a climate of learning for all, disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in exclusion (removal)

from class. As a reminder, use of cell phones/PDAs, and all other electronic devices, to include text messaging, is not permitted in class by Faculty Senate rule unless by instructor permission.

Emotional or mental health distress

In partnership with **The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester**, UNH Manchester offers consultation visits in on a walk-in basis and through telehealth appointment:

- Free confidential screening & consultation with a licensed mental health therapist.
- Referrals to mental health or substance misuse treatment.
- Assistance in understanding how to afford additional treatment (with or without insurance!) or find free services.

You may email unhm.wellness@unh.edu to make an appointment to meet with a counselor.

If you would like to connect to counseling services directly, you may do so by contacting **The Greater Manchester Mental Health Center** at (603) 668 - 4111.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support via phone or chat for people in distress, resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. Call (800) 273-TALK (8255).

Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)

This team helps the UNH Manchester community when there is a need to activate a systematic, coordinated response to students who may be in crisis or whose mental, emotional or psychological health condition may substantially disrupt or directly threaten the safety of the learning environment. The BIT receives reports from security, students, faculty, administrators, and others regarding students of concern, develops and implements appropriate interventions, assists students in accessing appropriate resources and recommends appropriate actions to the Dean of Students when needed.

More information can be provided by emailing UNHM.BIT@unh.edu. BIT works as close partners with faculty and staff to provide a caring, holistic approach to promote student safety and well-being on the Manchester campus.

Confidentiality and mandatory reporting

The University of New Hampshire at Manchester and its community are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students and for the university as a whole. Title IX makes it clear that violence, harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, and ability.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual or relationship violence, and/or stalking and harassment, you can find the appropriate resources below:

Reporting On Campus:

- Title IX Deputy Intake Coordinator: Lisa Enright 603-641-4336. Lisa's office is located on the fourth floor in Room 439.
- UNH Manchester Security: 603-541-4101 or located in the second-floor foyer

Reporting Off Campus:

- Manchester Police Department - 603-668-8711, 405 Valley St. Manchester, NH, or your local police department
- For emergencies dial 911.

Confidential Support Resources:

- YWCA, NH – 603-668-2299(24hour), 72 Concord St. Manchester, NH
- Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP): 603-862-7233(24hour), 8 Ballard Street,

Wolff House, Durham NH 03824

- The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester: See contact information and hours above
- 24 Hour NH Sexual Violence Hotline: 1-800-277-5570
- NH Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-866-644-3574

Financial Literacy Resources

All students benefit from understanding their mindset about money, how to build and use a personal budget, as well as understanding interest rates, loans, insurance, investing, and more. UNH has wonderful free resources for students in Library Resource Guides <https://libraryguides.unh.edu/finlit>, and every student (and faculty!) can access CA\$H COURSE at <https://www.cashcourse.org/> by creating a free account. Find more information on the Financial Wellness site of Health & Wellness at <https://www.unh.edu/health/financial-wellness>.

Library

The UNH Manchester librarians are available to assist you with your research. You can contact a librarian by calling 603-641-4173 or by emailing unhm.library@unh.edu.

The following online resources provide information about library resources and services:

UNH Manchester Library webpage: <https://manchester.unh.edu/library>

Online Research Guides: <https://libraryguides.unh.edu/index.php?b=s>

Access Library Resources Remotely: <https://libraryguides.unh.edu/remoteaccess>

Reserve a study room for Zoom classes: <https://libraryguides.unh.edu/remoteaccess/studyrrooms>.

Center for Academic Enrichment

Provides academic support services, including individual tutoring, for all students. Make an appointment through the CAE My Courses site on your Canvas dashboard. Phone: (603) 641-4113. Email: unhm.cae@unh.edu.

Food Pantry

The UNH Manchester Food Pantry, located in room 437 is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am- 9:30pm. Any UNH Manchester community member can take what they need. If you have any questions please email UNHM.Foodpantry@unh.edu.

Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP)

Provides free and confidential advocacy and direct services to survivors. <https://www.unh.edu/sharpp>) UNH Manchester students can also contact the YWCA of New Hampshire – 603-668-2299 (24hour), 72 Concord St. Manchester, NH.

QPR

It is a training program in mental health awareness and suicide prevention training offered by trained facilitators and members of the UNH Manchester community. Please contact Lisa Enright at lisa.enright@unh.edu should your department or program want to schedule a training session.