

Course Description

This course will introduce the key principles governing release of information and confidentiality of patient information. Topics to be covered include: confidentiality; release of information; legislative process; the court system; legal vocabulary; record retention guidelines; patient rights/advocacy; advance directives; and ethics. An overview of health care delivery systems and the roles of health care professionals will also be presented.

Course Textbook

Judson, K., & Harrison, C. (2013). *Law & ethics for the health professions* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the legal and ethical aspects of health information and health care.
2. Apply current laws, accreditation, licensure and certification standards related to health information initiatives.
3. Apply policies and procedures for access and disclosure of personal health information.
4. Understand procedures regarding the release of patient information to authorized users.
5. Apply and promote ethical standards of professional practice.
6. Differentiate the roles of various providers and disciplines throughout the continuum of healthcare.
7. Explain the importance of patient self-determination, advance directives and other aspects of informed consent in American health care.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes:** Each unit contains Unit Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lesson:** Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Supplemental Readings are provided in Units I-VII to aid students in their course of study.
4. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
5. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion Boards are part of all CSU term courses. More information and specifications can be found in the Student Resources link listed in the Course Menu bar.
6. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains seven Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units I-VII. Assessments are composed of written response questions.
7. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units I-VII. Unit VII contains two assignments. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with each unit. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.
8. **Research Paper:** Students are required to submit for grading a Research Paper in Unit VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding this assignment are provided below. A grading rubric is included with this assignment. Specific information for accessing this rubric is included below.

9. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.
10. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

CSU Online Library

The CSU Online Library is available to support your courses and programs. The online library includes databases, journals, e-books, and research guides. These resources are always accessible and can be reached through the library webpage. To access the library, log into the myCSU Student Portal, and click on "CSU Online Library." You can also access the CSU Online Library from the "My Library" button on the course menu for each course in Blackboard.

The CSU Online Library offers several reference services. E-mail (library@columbiasouthern.edu) and telephone (1.877.268.8046) assistance is available Monday – Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The library's chat reference service, *Ask a Librarian*, is available 24/7; look for the chat box on the online library page.

Librarians can help you develop your research plan or assist you in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information. Reference requests can include customized keyword search strategies, links to articles, database help, and other services.

Unit Assignments

Unit I Case Study

Read the Court Case titled "Attorney Guilty of Unauthorized Disclosure of Medical Information," found on page 43 of your textbook. As you read the Case Study, consider both sides of the issue with regards to the psychiatrist and the attorney.

Once you have time to read and analyze the Case Study, consider the concepts and topics discussed within this chapter and how they play into this situation. After, answer the following questions regarding the psychiatrist and attorney:

- If you were the psychiatrist in this situation, would you have allowed the medical records to be subpoenaed? Why or why not? How can you appeal a subpoena of medical records? Do you believe that the psychiatrist in this case was guilty of a breach of confidentiality? Explain your reasoning.
- If you were the attorney in this situation, would you have subpoenaed the medical records? Why or why not? Considering the man's medical history, could this be considered a breach of ethics? What if it endangers the child? Explain your reasoning as you answer these questions.

Respond to these questions in a word document. Your responses should be at least one page, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Use APA style writing when crafting your response.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit III Case Study

Read Ethics Issue 1 in your textbook on page 117.

As you read the Case Study, consider the concepts and topics taught throughout this chapter on Law, The Courts, and Contracts. Examine the issues presented by the Case Study and craft a response to the questions below.

Part 1

Consider the dentist and chiropractor advertising described in questions 1 and 2 for this case. Do you consider these to be examples of ethical advertising or unethical advertising? Explain your position on both examples.

Part 2

Study your local newspaper and any magazines to which you may have a subscription. Pay attention to the advertisements from various medical providers which are included in these publications. Also, pay attention to television commercials which you see from medical providers. Describe at least one example of an ethical health care

advertisement, and one example of an unethical health care advertisement. Are these ads misleading in any way? Explain your position on issues presented.

Respond to these questions in a word document. Your responses should be at least one page, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Use APA style writing when crafting your response.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit V Case Study

Read Ethics Issue 1 in your textbook on page 256.

As you read the issue, consider the concepts and topics taught throughout this chapter on "Privacy Law and HIPAA." Examine the issues presented by the case study and craft a response to the questions below.

- Is it ethical for health care practitioners to share the condition of a patient with the patient's employer? Why or why not?
- As a health care practitioner, how can you address questions and concerns from friends and family members regarding information on others discovered in the course of their employment? Explain your answer.

Respond to these questions in a word document. Your responses should be at least one page, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Use APA style writing when crafting your response.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VI Case Study

Read Ethics Issue 1 in your textbook on page 318.

As you read the issue, consider the concepts and topics taught throughout this chapter on Workplace Legalities. Examine the issues presented by the Case Study and craft a response to the questions below.

- You are a surgical technologist in a large hospital. Whenever you work with a certain surgeon, she tells off-color jokes to you and your coworkers and makes suggestive comments to workers of the opposite sex. One coworker tells you that he might quit his job because he is married, and the surgeon's behavior makes him so uncomfortable that he dreads coming to work. Is the surgeon's behavior illegal or simply in bad taste? Explain your answer.
- Do you or your coworkers in the previous situation have grounds for a sexual harassment complaint? Explain your answer.

Respond to these questions in a word document. Your responses should be at least one page, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Use APA style writing when crafting your response.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VII Case Study 1

Read Ethics Issue 1 in your textbook on page 382.

As you read the issue, consider the concepts and topics taught throughout this chapter on "Death and Dying." Examine the issues presented by the Case Study and craft a response to the questions below.

- Assume you are an emergency medical technician (EMT) responding to a 911 call at a grocery store. An elderly shopper has collapsed, and she is unconscious on the floor when you arrive. Her vital signs are weak. The woman is placed in the ambulance, where she arrests. You notice that the woman is wearing a bracelet that says "DNR," and a quick check of her purse reveals a signed and witnessed DNR order. What do you do?

- EMTs reach the hospital with a patient who then arrests. The patient has been hospitalized before, and a DNR order is in place. The patient is middle-aged, and when his family arrives, his wife says, "I don't care what he says. Do everything to keep him alive." As a health care practitioner on the team assigned to care for this patient, what will you do?

Respond to these questions in a word document. Your responses should be at least one page, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Use APA style writing when crafting your response.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VII Case Study 2

Read Ethics Issue 3 in your textbook on page 383.

As you read the issue, consider the concepts and topics taught throughout this chapter on "Death and Dying." Examine the issues presented by the Case Study and craft a response to the questions below.

- A young mother who was severely injured in a car accident is brought into the hospital trauma center where you work. She belongs to the Jehovah's Witnesses church, and emphatically states that she refuses to have a blood transfusion. You know she risks death without a transfusion, but she believes her decision is a matter of her salvation. As a member of the patient's health care team, what will you do?
- The patient in the car accident scenario is an elderly Jehovah's Witness and has no family. What will you do?
- The female patient in the car accident scenario is unconscious, but her husband makes her wishes known regarding blood transfusions. Can you accept the husband's decision on the patient's behalf? Explain your answer.

Respond to these questions in a word document. Your responses should be at least one page, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Use APA style writing when crafting your response.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Research Paper

Unit II Research Paper Topic

For your first submission, you will need to choose a topic based upon a topic in Medical Law and Ethics from which to create research questions. Once you have chosen your topic, you will need to submit an outline of your preliminary research with at least two scholarly references.

Within your outline, discuss why you chose your topic, possible subtopics for focus (at least two), possible research questions you could investigate, and the relevance of your two scholarly references to your research. Make sure that your topics, research questions, and references are related to Law and Ethics within the Health Professions.

Your topic outline should be at least one page, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, with appropriate APA style writing.

Note: This is often the most difficult part of the research process. Here are some tips to getting started with your research paper:

- Write down multiple research topics and choose which you find most appealing.
- Use personal or professional experience to establish a research topic.
- Ask your professor for guidance.
- Utilize the CSU Online Library and the resident Librarians for research help.
- Take advantage of the supplemental readings (Online Library articles already researched for you).
- Peruse your textbook for interesting topics.
- Review the course objectives and see if any spark interest.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit IV Research Paper Outline

For your second submission, you will need to submit a draft of your research paper with several components to ensure you are on the right track:

- An outline of your research and the intended direction of your argument.
- At least five scholarly resources you have found that contribute to your topic.
- A brief annotated bibliography of two scholarly resources.
- An abstract outlining your topic and your subsequent findings.

This research outline should be at least two pages, double-spaced with Times New Roman 12 pt. font, and use appropriate APA style writing. You should be thorough in your research so your professor (or a colleague) could adequately determine your intended topic and the direction you are going with your paper.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VIII Research Paper

For your final submission, you are to submit the research paper you have been working on throughout the course. The research paper should be at least eight pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, with appropriate APA style writing. The research paper must contain a minimum of five scholarly references supporting your argument surrounding your topic, answer your research question(s), or support your points about the need for further research on this topic.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

APA Guidelines

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU's Citation Guide in the myCSU Student Portal by clicking on the "Citation Resources" link in the "Learning Resources" area. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

Grading Rubrics

This course utilizes analytic grading rubrics as tools for your professor in assigning grades for all learning activities. Each rubric serves as a guide that communicates the expectations of the learning activity and describes the criteria for each level of achievement. In addition, a rubric is a reference tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of that learning activity. It is imperative for you to familiarize yourself with these rubrics because these are the primary tools your professor uses for assessing learning activities.

Rubric categories include: (1) Discussion Board, (2) Assessment (Written Response), and (3) Assignment. However, it is possible that not all of the listed rubric types will be used in a single course (e.g., some courses may not have Assessments).

The Discussion Board rubric can be found within Unit I's Discussion Board submission instructions.

The Assessment (Written Response) rubric can be found embedded in a link within the directions for each Unit Assessment. However, these rubrics will only be used when written-response questions appear within the Assessment.

Each Assignment type (e.g., article critique, case study, research paper) will have its own rubric. The Assignment rubrics are built into Blackboard, allowing students to review them prior to beginning the Assignment and again once the Assignment has been scored. This rubric can be accessed via the Assignment link located within the unit where it is to be submitted. Students may also access the rubric through the course menu by selecting "Tools" and then "My Grades."

Again, it is vitally important for you to become familiar with these rubrics because their application to your Discussion Boards, Assessments, and Assignments is the method by which your instructor assigns all grades.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

Discussion Boards (8 @ 1.5%)	= 12%
Unit Assessments (7 @ 4%)	= 28%
Case Studies (6 @ 5%)	= 30%
Unit II Research Paper Topic	= 4%
Unit IV Research Paper Outline	= 6%
Unit VIII Research Paper	= 20%
Total	= 100%

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.

By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

Unit I	Introduction to Medical Law and Ethics
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide
Read:	☐ Chapter 1: Introduction to Law and Ethics ☐ Chapter 2: Making Ethical Decisions ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Case Study by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Notes/Goals:	

Unit II	Working in Health Care
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide
Read:	☐ Chapter 3: Working in Health Care ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Research Paper Topic by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Notes/Goals:	

Unit III	Medical Law in the Courtroom
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide
Read:	☐ Chapter 4: Law, the Courts, and Contracts ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Case Study by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Notes/Goals:	

Unit IV		Liability Suits and Medical Malpractice
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide	
Read:	☐ Chapter 5: Professional Liability and Medical Malpractice ☐ Chapter 6: Defenses to Liability Suits ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide	
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)	
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Research Paper Outline by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)	
Notes/Goals:		

Unit V		Medical Law and HIPAA
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide	
Read:	☐ Chapter 7 Medical Records and Informed Consent ☐ Chapter 8 Privacy Law and HIPAA ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide	
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)	
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Case Study by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)	
Notes/Goals:		

Unit VI		Physician Responsibilities and Workplace Legalities
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide	
Read:	☐ Chapter 9: Physicians' Public Duties and Responsibilities ☐ Chapter 10: Workplace Legalities ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide	
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)	
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Case Study by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)	
Notes/Goals:		

Unit VII	From Birth to Death
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide
Read:	☐ Chapter 11: The Beginning of Life and Childhood ☐ Chapter 12: Death and Dying ☐ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Submit:	☐ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Case Study 1 by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Case Study 2 by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Notes/Goals:	

Unit VIII	Health Care Trends and Forecasts
Review:	☐ Unit Study Guide
Read:	☐ Chapter 13: Health Care Trends and Forecasts
Discuss:	☐ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) ☐ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student's Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Submit:	☐ Research Paper by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Notes/Goals:	