

Syllabus for HCM-3080

Healthcare Legal and Ethical Considerations

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The rapidly evolving healthcare system presents the healthcare administrator with complex challenges and risks. Healthcare administrators must be able to assess external and internal healthcare policies in order to improve organizational design and delivery of healthcare services. **Healthcare Legal and Ethical Considerations** focuses on the laws and regulations developed by policymakers that impact healthcare organizations. Students review key laws that govern patient care delivery, employee relations, contracts, and fraud. Also examined are the ethical underpinnings and principles that healthcare organizations and administrators follow in the delivery of services to patients.

COURSE TOPICS

- Healthcare laws and regulations
- Healthcare ethics

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- CO 1** Examine the sources of healthcare law.
- CO 2** Evaluate approaches to healthcare ethics.
- CO 3** Assess the interrelationships and roles of various healthcare providers and organizations.
- CO 4** Evaluate appropriate legal standards for use in healthcare organizations.
- CO 5** Evaluate appropriate ethical standards for use in healthcare organizations.
- CO 6** Analyze the relationship between ethics and law in the context of healthcare.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Textbook

- Pozgar, G. D. (2020). *Legal and ethical essentials of health care administration* (3rd edition). Jones & Bartlett.
Print ISBN-13: 978-1284172560
eBook ISBN-13: 978-1284221794

Other Resources

- Articles, videos, websites, and podcasts are linked within individual modules.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Healthcare Legal and Ethical Considerations is a three-credit, 12-week online course consisting of 12 modules. Activities include discussion questions, written assignments, exercises, and a final paper. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Law and Ethics**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 6
- **Module 2: Litigation**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 4
- **Module 3: Civil and Criminal Culpability**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 4
- **Module 4: Organizational and Corporate Healthcare Issues**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6
- **Module 5: Physicians, Nurses, and Medical Staff**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 3, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6
- **Module 6: Patient Rights and Responsibilities**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 4, CO 5

- **Module 7: Life and Death Issues**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6
- **Module 8: Healthcare Workplace Laws**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6
- **Module 9: Medical Records, Reporting, and Privacy**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6
- **Module 10: Insurance**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 6
- **Module 11: Safety and Excellence**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 4, CO 5, CO 6
- **Module 12: The Past and the Future**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 4, CO 6

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments and exercises, and complete a final project. See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality

One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



Discussion Forums

You are required to participate in **seventeen** graded discussion forums. Discussion forums are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules. There is also one ungraded but required Introductions Forum in Module 1.

You should follow the guidelines for discussion forums below.

1. You are to work to make these as much like an in-class discussion as possible in our online environment.

2. Make your initial posting before you read what others have posted and make your initial posting early.
3. Your comments on the postings of others should be substantive and should move the discussion forward. Comments like “great post” or “I agree” do neither. Your comments should do things like ask or answer questions or provide additional information or examples.
4. Do be positive. Feel free to disagree with each other but not disagreeably.
5. Don’t feel you must have the absolutely correct answer before you can comment. Your job is to be a learner and you are not expected to be an expert.
6. Please proofread before posting.



Written Assignments and Exercises

You are required to complete **five** written assignments and **five** exercises.

- The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules. Written assignments require you to apply legal and ethical concepts as well as analyze real-world healthcare dilemmas. They require answers of varying lengths, averaging around 2 to 3 pages each.
- The exercises are designed primarily to help you internalize important concepts and apply them in real-world situations. They require answers of varying lengths, averaging around 1 to 2 pages each.



Final Project

The purpose of this project is to synthesize your understanding of law and ethics and their relationship to each other. You will select a piece of legislation that directly impacts healthcare and conduct a historical and content analysis of the law, discussing the ethical basis that forms the law’s foundation. You will evaluate the impact of the legislation on a particular workplace and create recommendations for compliance that take into account the interrelationships and roles of various healthcare providers and organizations.

Be sure to decide on your topic before the end of Week 10. If you do not select from the list provided in the course documents, obtain approval from your mentor for your choice by the end of Week 10.

See the Final Project area of the course site for details.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (17)**—34%
- **Exercises (5)**—10%
- **Written assignments (5)**—36%
- **Final project**—20%

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	= 93–100	C+	= 78–79
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–77
B+	= 88–89	C–	= 70–72
B	= 83–87	D	= 60–69
B–	= 80–82	F	= Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Arrange to take your examination(s) by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the Online Student Handbook.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.

- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and scheduling and taking examinations.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process—not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) webpage and questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)