Nashville State Community College
Business & Applied Arts Division
(Paralegal Studies/LEGL-2350)

Master Course Syllabus

This master course syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course. Each instructor will further clarify their criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc. on his/her course syllabus.

LEGL-2350 Law and Medicine
(Formerly PLAW 2800 - Legal Issues in Medicine)
Credits: 3
Class Hours: 3

Course Description: An introduction to the laws regulating the health care industry; medical research; and emphasis on the paralegal's role in obtaining and organizing medical records.
Prerequisite(s): LEGL 1300

Instructor Information:
Name:
Email:
Office Phone:
Office Location:
Office Hours:

Textbook and Other Materials:
Textbook: Medical Law and Ethics, by Bonnie Fremgen
Reference Materials: None
Supplies: None

Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
• Identify the different types of health care organizations and providers who deliver services and items to the public.
• Identify and discuss legal issues facing hospitals and insurers.
• Explain the legal basis for a physician's duty to his/her patients.
• Identify and discuss potential liability issues regarding fraud and abuse.
• Explain the significance of HIPAA regulations.
• Identify and discuss issues underlying human subject research.

Course Competencies:
The following are detailed course competencies intended to support the course outcomes:
• Define terminology used in health care delivery and its financing.
• Explain the overlapping roles of federal and state authorities in healthcare.
Course Assessments:
The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge and skills:

• Quizzes are taken by the student on their "home" computer and are open book and self-grading. Links are found on the menu bar under Quizzes, Tests, and Cases. The first time a student takes a quiz or test, they will need to carefully read the instructions provided. There are 13 quizzes this semester.

• The Mid-Term and Final Test/Exam are proctored and must be taken in the Testing Center. Nashville State's Testing Center can be found in the Student Services Building on the Main Campus. Check with the Testing Center for times of operation and other information. Check with your Testing Center on two very important points BEFORE going to your Testing Center to take the Mid-Term and Final Test/Exam. First, find out if your Testing Center has received the password codes that will allow you access to both the Mid-Term and Final Test/Exam. Next, plan to go to the Testing Center at least one hour before closing time and therefore, you need to know your Testing Center's hours. Testing Centers require a photo ID before administering a test. Children are not allowed in the Testing Centers.

Grading Policy
Two Tests/Exams -
  Mid-Term - 70 Questions, 5 points each - Total 350 points
  Final - 70 Questions, 5 points each - Total 350 points
13 Quizzes -
  10 Questions, 3 points each on each Quiz
390 total points
10 Assignments - Maximum 50 points each
500 total points

All grading procedure is to determine that the student has mastered the material for the successful completion of this course. High achievement in the course will be achieved by participating fully in all case studies through research of assigned topics, discussion of these cases with other students in this course, and the mastery of the course material through reading the textbook and the lesson notes prepared by the instructor.

Grading Scale:
Grades will be determined as follows:
A  1590 - 1430 points
B  1429 - 1270 points
C  1269 - 1110 points
F  1109 and below points

Topics to beCovered:
Chapter 1 – Introduction to Medical Law, Ethics, and Bioethics
Chapter 2 – The Legal System
Chapter 3– Importance of the Legal System for the Physician and the Healthcare Professional
Chapter 4– Today's Healthcare Environment
Chapter 5– The Physician-Patient Relationship
Chapter 6– Professional Liability and Medical Malpractice
Chapter 7– Public Duties of the Physician and the Healthcare Professional
Chapter 8– Workplace Law and Ethics
Chapter 10 – Patient Confidentiality and HIPAA
Chapter 11 – Ethical and Bioethical issues in Medicine
Chapter 12 - Ethical Issues Relating to Life
Chapter 13 - Death and Dying

Attendance Policy
A student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Each instructor will formulate an attendance policy and provide it on the course syllabus. Absences are counted from the first scheduled meeting of the class, and it is the responsibility of each student to know the attendance policy of each instructor in whose class he/she is enrolled. If a student is absent from a class, he/she should give an advanced explanation to the instructor. Absences in a course may affect a student's final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s final grade.
Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of "FA" or "FN" (see explanation below) depending on the individual instructor’s course policy.
FA= failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required.
FN= failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

Student Communication Channels
It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

Early Warning System
Nashville State Community College has implemented an Early Warning System to notify students via e-mail about academic problems such as poor classroom attendance, poor performance on assignments/tests, poor communication skills, late/missing assignments, and/or lack of classroom participation. Please note that Early Warning Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing.

ADA Compliance Statement
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Student Disabilities Office at 353.3721.
Classroom Misconduct
Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Please consult your Student Handbook for more specific details. The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College. Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.). Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.

Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words (A Writer’s Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.
In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

Inclement Weather Policy
In the event of an inclement weather event, check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nscc.edu for announcements on campus closures. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations (channels 2, 4, 5, and 17). When classes are cancelled, an online assignment will be posted in NS Online. Check your NS Online email for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Even though classes may be cancelled, some areas, i.e. Testing Center, may be open. However, you should check before commuting to campus. The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Security are responsible for cancellation decisions during an inclement weather event for the Nashville State main campus.
and the Southeast campus. Cookeville, Waverly, and Dickson Campus Directors will make class cancellation decisions based on conditions in their respective areas. Decisions about class cancellations are based on actual conditions, not forecasts. The perspective used for making decisions is that of the college as an employer, not as a K-12 institution. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.

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