

Saint Leo University
HCA 430
Contemporary and Critical Issues in Health Care

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth examination of contemporary and critical issues that are significantly impacting health care organizations, providers, and patients. Students examine legal, cultural, and ethical health care issues as they relate to organizational stability, quality of care, patient and community quality of life, and moral and ethical health care delivery values.

Textbooks:

Pozgar, G. D. (2020). *Legal and ethical issues for health professionals* (5th ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-284-14418-5

Course Objectives:

1. To provide a clear understanding of how contemporary critical issues support or threaten the stability of the health care industry and patient care.
2. To examine community health care expectations, demands, and needs.
3. To study issues related to respect and trust in health care delivery.
4. To investigate questions of openness and honesty in health care practices.
5. To provide a solid grounding in the impact of governing bodies on health care organizations and providers.
6. To explain and integrate the core values of Integrity, Community, and Excellence as they relate to Health Care management.

Saint Leo University Core Values:

Students are expected to be mindful of the Benedictine core values of Saint Leo University when submitting work, interviewing outside resources and working in groups.

Excellence: Saint Leo University is an educational enterprise. All of us, individually and collectively, work hard to ensure that our students develop the character, learn the skills and assimilate the knowledge essential to become morally responsible leaders. The success of our University depends upon a conscientious commitment to our mission, vision and goals.

Community: Saint Leo University develops hospitable Christian learning communities everywhere we serve. We foster a spirit of belonging, unity and interdependence based on mutual trust and respect to create socially responsible environments that challenge all of us to listen, to learn, to change and to serve.

Respect: Animated in the spirit of Jesus Christ, we value all individuals' unique talents, respect their dignity and strive to foster their commitment to excellence in our work. Our community's strength depends on the unity and diversity of our people, on the free exchange of ideas and on learning, living and working harmoniously.

Personal Development: Saint Leo University stresses the development of every person's mind, spirit and body for a balanced life. All members of the Saint Leo University community must demonstrate their commitment to personal development to help strengthen the character of our community.

Responsible Stewardship: Our Creator blesses us with an abundance of resources. We foster a spirit of service to employ our resources to university and community development. We must be resourceful. We must optimize and apply all of the resources of our community to fulfill Saint Leo University's mission and goals.

Integrity: The commitment of Saint Leo University to excellence demands that its members live its mission and deliver on its promise. The faculty, staff and students pledge to be honest, just and consistent in word and deed.

Evaluation:

Your grade in this course will be determined by the following:

Assignment	% each	Weighted % of final grade
Exams (2)	30%	60%
*Discussion (8)	2%	16%
Written assignments (4)	6%	24%
Total		100%
Extra credit (3)	4%	12%

* Discussion questions (10 point each) are evaluated as follows:

- Initial post = 5 points
- First peer response = 2.5 points
- Second peer response = 2.5 points

Grading Scale

A	94 – 100%	C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%	C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%	D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%	D	60 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%	F	Below 60%
C+	77 – 79%		

APA Format:

Students are required to use the APA (American Psychological Association) formatting style when writing a paper. APA stands for American Psychological Association, and the style is one of many in the academic world used to regulate the language, procedures, and formatting of manuscripts and other writing. Please be consistent throughout each written paper. Refer to the APA Guide under Resources on the Course Menu for correct APA style.

Module 1 Introduction to Ethics

- Objectives:** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain how the knowledge of ethics is important to health care professionals.
 - Describe the principles of health care ethics.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 Ethical Dilemmas

- Objectives:** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Analyze common ethical dilemmas.
 - Explain contemporary legal dilemmas.
 - Develop a balanced decision-making process when dealing with ethical and legal dilemmas.
 - Discuss confidentiality related to health care issues.
 - Evaluate the need for consent for medical professionals.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Extra Credit (optional)	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3 End-of-Life Dilemmas

- Objectives:** **When you complete this module, you should be able to:**
- Discuss accepted criteria for determining death.
 - Describe the end-of-life dilemmas.
 - Analyze the historical overview of the right to self-determination.
 - Explain differences between a living will, health care proxy, and durable power of attorney.
 - Build a personal philosophy concerning death and dying.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4 Law: Introduction & Development

- Objectives:** **When you complete this module, you should be able to:**
- Explain the development of law.
 - Discuss the functioning of our legal system.
 - Define the sources of law.
 - Distinguish the elements of negligence when applied to health professionals.
 - Describe intentional torts and criminal law related to health professionals.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Extra Credit (optional)	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Midterm Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 Government, Ethics, Law

Objectives:

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe the meaning and sources of public policy.
- Explain federal privacy laws that pertain to health care.
- Discuss important laws designed to protect individual rights.
- Illustrate political malpractice.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
*Submit Written Assignment Chalk and Wire	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

***Submit the Module 5 Written Assignment to Chalk and Wire using the link in the Module 5 folder. Students who do not submit the assignment to Chalk and Wire will receive a zero. This is a key program assessment; the results are measured to ensure students are meeting program goals. Video and PDF instructions can be found on the course home page. PDF instructions are also located in the Start Here folder.**

Module 6

Law & Organizational Ethics

Objectives:

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain corporate duties and responsibilities of health care organizations.
- Describe the ethical and legal risks of health care organizations.
- Analyze corporate structure.
- Illustrate the code of ethics for health care executives.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Extra Credit (optional)	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7

Ethical & Legal Issues of Health Care Professionals

Objectives:

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain how ethics and law impact health care professionals.
- Compare similarities within the various professional codes of ethics.
- Describe the complexity of patient care issues that physicians face routinely.
- Define credentialing for health care professionals.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8

Patient Consent

Objectives:

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain the patient's right to self-determination.
- Describe the various aspects of informed consent.
- Explain the doctrine of informed consent.
- Describe the purpose of obtaining a patient's consent.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT