

# OST 804: Public Health Policy and Law in the Health Professions

## Professors:

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## Course Overview:

This course serves as an introduction to the legal principles, policymaking fundamentals, and ethical standards relevant to active health care professionals. Students will learn about core legal concepts in the field public health, including but not limited to, the role of law in health care, types of laws and their origins, and liability. Also included within the course are topics of ethics, policy creation, system performance and reform.

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to legal and policy issues that you are likely to experience while managing a health care organization. As health care delivery and law increasingly intersect, health care administrators will be challenged with a variety of legal, regulatory, and ethical issues. These issues can be quite expansive, and therefore, the focus of this course is on the fundamentals of public health policy and law and their impact on health providers.

## Course Content:

This course has been divided into 5 units. The units will be taught sequentially, but their content is not separate and distinct from the others. Instead, the content will build, and the material learned during the first unit will be referred to and utilized in the fifth.

The five units and their general breakdown are as follows:

1. Law: 3 weeks (August 28 - September 17)
  - a. Basics
  - b. Administration & Liability
  - c. Policy Directions
2. Ethics: 1 week (September 18 - September 24)
  - a. Ethics Basics
  - b. Ethics and Law in Healthcare Leadership
3. System Performance: 3 weeks (September 25 - October 15)
  - a. Overview
  - b. Performance of the United States
  - c. United States v. The World
4. System Reform: 3 weeks (October 16 - November 5)
  - a. Overview and Background Health Reform/Affordable Care Act
  - b. Impacts of Reform
    - i. Managed Care and Insurance
    - ii. Meaningful Use

5. Health Policy and Policy Making: 4 weeks (November 6 – December 6)
  - a. Overview and The Players Involved
  - b. Policy Drafting and Implementation
  - c. Evidence-Based Policy Drafting

Objectives:

1. Law:
  - a. Apply basic tort, contract and corporate law principles
  - b. Understand law's limitations in policy formation
  - c. Analyze the role of the legal system in health policy and health care delivery
  - d. Recognize statutes, administrative regulations and laws that affect public health
2. Ethics:
  - a. Define principles of legal and ethical decision making for health policy
3. System Performance and Reform:
  - a. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. health system
  - b. Analyze potential methods of improvement
4. Health Policy and Policy Making:
  - a. Compare and contrast the impact policy, ethical guidelines, and law have on public health
  - b. Explain the legal and ethical relationship of law and health policy to health care providers

Course Assessments:

A variety of assignments will be used to monitor your progress with the assigned readings and online tutorials. The requirements and expectations for each of the specific assignments are found within the applicable unit on the ANGEL website.

Course assessments will take the following forms:

1. *Online Discussion Posts*: There will be discussion topics presented via ANGEL intermittently throughout the course. Each student must post a minimum of two comments per topic. The posting requirements outlined are the absolute minimum necessary to receive credit for that discussion topic. The length of the postings will not be expressly mandated, but should be approximately a paragraph in length and comments like "I agree" or "I don't know" will not be considered an adequate posting.
2. *Writing Assignments*: These assignments are crafted to provide you with an opportunity to work with and apply some of the concepts presented in the required readings/modules. The specific requirements and grading rubric for each assignment can be found on ANGEL.
3. *Capstone Portfolio*: The capstone portfolio is the final assignment of the course. The requirements for the portfolio will be posted on ANGEL at the midpoint of the course.

Grading Scale:

The grading scale is Pass/Fail. In order to successfully pass this course, students must accumulate a composite grade of 80%. The composite grade will be calculated by adding the total number of points earned throughout the course (including each assessment and the portfolio) and then dividing by the total number of points possible.

Academic Integrity Addendum:

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the College of Education adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).)

Therefore, unless authorized by the instructors, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit coursework you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, which could include a failing grade on the assignment, in the course, or both. Contact the course instructor(s) if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>)

Modifications to the Course Syllabus or Course Schedule:

Throughout the duration of this course, modifications to the syllabus, schedule and/or content may be required. Any modifications or changes made to these items will be made at the discretion of the course instructors, and will be posted on the OST 804 ANGEL website. Any modifications that are made shall take precedence over this existing course syllabus.