

# Virginia Western Community College

## HLT 145

### Ethics for Health Care Personnel

#### **Prerequisites**

None

#### **Course Description**

Focuses on ethical concepts of health care. Emphasizes confidentiality, maintaining patient records, personal appearance, professionalism with patients/clients, associates, and an awareness of health care facilities.

**Semester Credits: 2**

**Lecture Hours: 2**

**Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0**

#### **Required Materials**

##### **Textbook:**

Health Law and Medical Ethics for Healthcare Professionals. James F. Allen Jr., RN, BSN, MBA/HCM, JD  
Pearson Co. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-502799-8

##### **Other Required Materials:**

#### **Course Outcomes**

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Review central moral, philosophical, and social problems in medicine and health policy
- Reflect on the physician's responsibilities in helping to develop and implement social policies regarding health care delivery
- Develop critical skills for evaluating and articulating moral and philosophical claims, arguments, and goals frequently found in practice and medical literature
- Formulate, present, and defend a particular position on a moral or policy issue in health care and to be able to communicate these ideas and conclusions effectively, both orally and in writing to patients, patients' families, colleagues and other decision makers in society
- Reflect on the relationships among moral, professional, and legal obligations of physicians, including those involving honesty, and respect for patient well-being, autonomy, dignity and confidentiality

## **Topical Description**

### **A. Health Law**

#### Introduction to law

- The purpose of law
- How the law is written
- The structure of law
- The U.S. Constitution

#### How the Law Works

- Criminal Law
- Civil Law
- Legal analysis
- Civil lawsuit
- Appeals and the American judicial system
- Lawsuit alternatives

### **B. The Law of Healthcare**

#### Working in the Healthcare Profession

- Qualities of a successful healthcare practitioner
- The practice of medicine
- Professions and Professional
- Professional organizations
- State Medical Practice Acts and State Medical Boards
- Employment Law

#### Medical Records, Insurance and Contracts

- Medical records
- Subpoena deces tecum
- Storage and retention of medical records
- Insurance
- Managed care
- Employment provided malpractice
- Contracts
- The Statue of Frauds

#### Privacy and Confidentiality

- Privacy Common Laws
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA)
- Health Care Portability

### Negligence, Malpractice and Other Torts

- Torts
- Damages
- Negligence
- Malpractice
- Legal Defenses

### Professional Responsibilities

- Responsibility to Patients
- Responsibility to Profession

### C. Introduction to Ethics

#### Introduction to Ethics

- Values
- Morals
- Etiquette
- Protocol
- Beliefs
- Revisiting Ethics

#### Ethical Decision Making

- Ethical principles and Theories

### D. The Ethics of Medicine

#### The Beginning of Life

- Fertilization
- Conception
- Childbirth and Childhood
- Best Interest of the Child

#### Death and Dying

- Determination of Death
- Organ Donation
- Intestacy
- Advance Directives
- Hospice
- Euthanasia
- The Grieving process

#### Uniqueness and Individuality

- Ethnic Groups
- Culture
- Religion
- Genocide

Bioethics

- National Research Act
- Medical Research
- Stem cell Research
- Anencephaly
- Fetal Reduction
- Conjoined Twins
- Cloning
- Xenotransplantation
- Cryonics

The Future of HealthCare

- Legal Future of Healthcare
- Ethical Future of Healthcare
- The Scientific Future of Healthcare

**Note to Instructors**

List information about optional topics, departmental exams, etc.