

Principles of Health Science, Semester A

Course Overview

Principles of Health Science, Semester A is the first part of a two-semester course. It is designed to help you get an overview of healthcare careers relating to therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

You will learn about the history of health care in the United States, job opportunities in the five healthcare systems, the qualifications and skills required to work in the healthcare sector, and factors that are important in a workplace environment such as communication skills, knowledge of laws and ethics related to health care, and knowledge of health and wellness.

This course has 15 lessons organized into four units, plus four Unit Activities. Most lessons contain one or more Lesson Activities.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Describe the history of health care in the United States and the factors that influence it.
- Examine the technology used in different healthcare systems.
- Analyze the impact of cultural diversity on health care.
- Describe careers in therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.
- Describe how multidisciplinary teams collaborate to deliver quality health care.
- Identify effective communication that is crucial in health care.
- Discuss the responsibilities, attributes, and skills of effective leadership in health care.
- Analyze the ethical and legal responsibilities of the healthcare industry and healthcare professionals.
- Identify wellness strategies and examine an individual's rights and choices regarding their health and wellness.
- Describe how to control infection and implement hygiene in the workplace.
- Identify safety hazards, practices, and standards in the healthcare industry.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Understand the basics of spreadsheet software, such as Microsoft Excel or Google Spreadsheets, but having prior hands-on experience is not necessary.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the prerequisites section of the Student Orientation at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Principles of Health Science, Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft Excel or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: US Health Care

Summary

In this unit, you will learn about the history of health care in the United States. You will familiarize yourself with the technology used in different healthcare systems. Additionally, you will examine how healthcare professionals consider cultural diversity when resolving healthcare problems.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Student Orientation <i>Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
5 days: 2–6	Health Care in the United States <i>Describe the history of health care in the United States and the factors that influence it.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7–11	Health Care and Technology <i>Examine the technology used in different healthcare systems.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 12–16	Cultural Diversity in Health Care <i>Analyze the impact of cultural diversity on health care.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 17–19	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity / Discussion
1 day: 20	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Healthcare Careers

Summary

In this unit, you will learn about the various career opportunities available in therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development. You will examine the skills and qualifications needed for various healthcare careers. You will also learn how you can advance your career and continue to be a lifelong learner.

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
5 days: 21–25	Therapeutic Services <i>Describe careers in therapeutic services.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 26–30	Diagnostic Services <i>Describe careers in diagnostic services.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 31–35	Health Informatics <i>Describe careers in health informatics.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 36–40	Support Services <i>Describe careers in support services.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 41–45	Biotechnology Research and Development <i>Describe careers in biotechnology research and development.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 46–48	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity / Discussion
1 day: 49	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Teamwork in Health Care

Summary

In this unit, you will learn the importance and role of multidisciplinary teams. You will explore communication skills. You will also learn leadership skills, goal setting, and how to conduct meetings effectively.

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
4 days: 50–53	Multidisciplinary Teams <i>Describe how multidisciplinary teams collaborate to deliver quality health care.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 54–57	Communication in Health Care <i>Identify effective communication that is crucial in health care.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 58–61	Leadership Skills <i>Discuss the responsibilities, attributes, and skills of effective leadership in health care.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 62–64	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity / Discussion
1 day: 65	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: Working in Health Care

Summary

In this unit, you will familiarize yourself with important aspects of law and ethics in relation to health care. You will distinguish between malpractice, negligence, and liability in health care. In addition, you will learn wellness strategies, understand basic principles of nutrition, and discuss eating disorders. Finally, you will discuss safety standards and practices in the healthcare industry.

Day	Activity / Objective	Type
5 days: 66–70	Laws and Ethics <i>Analyze the ethical and legal responsibilities of the healthcare industry and healthcare professionals.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 71–75	Health and Wellness <i>Identify wellness strategies and examine an individual's rights and choices regarding their health and wellness.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 76–79	Infection Control <i>Describe how to control infection and implement hygiene in the workplace.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 80–84	Safety at the Workplace <i>Identify safety hazards, practices, and standards in the healthcare industry.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 85–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity / Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Exam	Assessment