

# Legal & Ethical Issues for Health Professionals

## (HITT 1253 9E1)



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

### **CREDIT**

2 Semester Credit Hours (2 hours lecture)

### **MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

Online

### **PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:**

HITT 1301; Completed the Online Orientation and answered 7+ questions correctly on the Online Learner Self-Assessment:

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Concepts of privacy, security, confidentiality, ethics, health care legislation, and regulations relating to the maintenance and use of health information. This course is time-bound, structured and completed totally online.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Apply local, state, and federal standards and regulations for the control and use of health information.
- Demonstrate appropriate health information disclosure practices.
- Identify and discuss ethical issues in health care.

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Staci Waldrep, MS, RHIT

Email: [smwaldrep@lit.edu](mailto:smwaldrep@lit.edu)

Office Phone: 409.247.5262

Office Location: MPC 247

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday (9:00 – 1:00); Thursday (By appointment)

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

- Legal and Ethical Issues for Health Professionals by G. Pozgar, 6th edition. Jones and Bartlett Publishing. ISBN: 9781284261714.
- Access code (OPTIONAL – It is not required that you purchase. The student companion website reinforces the material you learn in the book).

- a. If book is purchased new, the Student Companion Website Access Code comes with it.
- b. If the book is purchased used, access to the Companion Website may be purchased separately at [www.jblearning.com](http://www.jblearning.com). Again, this is optional. It is **NOT** required.
- Computer with internet access.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.

### DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

### STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

### COURSE CALENDAR

Due Date	Topic	Assignment
1.22.26 Thursday	Introduction to Blackboard Course Introduction	Review Netiquette Review Syllabus Review Textbook Information Complete Practice Exam
1.29.26 Thursday	Ch. 1: Introduction to Ethics	<b>*Introduction Discussion</b> <b>*Ch. 1 Assignment</b>
02.05.26 Thursday	Ch. 2: Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas	<b>*Ch. 2 Assignment</b>
02.12.26 Thursday	Ch. 3: End-Of-Life Dilemmas	<b>*Ch. 3 Assignment</b>
02.19.26 Thursday	Ch. 4: Healthcare Ethics Committee	<b>*Ch. 4 Assignment</b>
<b>02.24.26</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 4)</b>	<b>*Exam 1 (Ch. 1 - 4)</b> <b>*Unit 1 Discussion</b>
02.26.26 Thursday	Ch. 5: Development of Law	<b>*Ch. 5 Assignment</b>
03.05.26 Thursday	Ch. 6: Introduction to Law	<b>*Ch. 6 Assignment</b>
03.19.26 Thursday	Ch. 7: Government, Ethics, & the Law Ch. 8: Organizational Ethics & the Law	<b>*Ch. 7 Assignment</b> <b>*Ch. 8 Assignment</b>
<b>03.24.26</b>	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 5 – 8)</b>	<b>*Exam 2 (Ch. 5 - 8)</b>

<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>*Unit 2 Discussion</b>
03.26.26 Thursday	Ch. 9: Healthcare Professional Legal-Ethical Issues	<b>*Ch. 9 Assignment</b>
04.02.26 Thursday	Ch. 10: Physician Ethics and the Law	<b>*Ch. 10 Assignment</b>
04.09.26 Thursday	Ch. 11: Patient Consent	<b>*Ch. 11 Assignment</b>
04.14.26 Tuesday	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 9 – 11)</b>	<b>*Exam 3 (Ch. 9 - 11)</b> <b>*Unit 3 Discussion</b>
04.16.26 Thursday	Ch. 12: Patient Rights and Responsibilities	<b>*Ch. 12 Assignment</b>
04.23.26 Thursday	Ch. 13: Employee Rights and Responsibilities	<b>*Ch. 13 Assignment</b>
04.30.26 Thursday	Ch. 14 Patient Abuse	<b>*Ch. 14 Assignment</b>
05.01.26 Friday	<b>HIM Healthcare Law Presentation</b>	<b>Semester Project</b>
05.05.26 Tuesday	<b>Exam 4 (Chapters 12 – 14)</b>	<b>*Exam 4 (Ch. 12 - 14)</b> <b>*Unit 4 Discussion</b>
05.07.26 Thursday	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam (Chapters 1 – 14)</b>	<b>*Comprehensive Final Exam (Ch. 1-14)</b>

## COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Assignments/Labs/Assignmentzes: **20%**
- Participation / Discussion Boards: **20%**
- Unit Exams (5): **45%**
- Comprehensive Final Exam: **15%**

## GRADING SCALE

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's

Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT**

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI / ChatGPT in their courses.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic

alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

1. Students must provide their own textbooks, writing instruments, and other necessary supplies for classes.
2. Students must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
3. Students must respect one another and all faculty.
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.
5. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
6. All assignments and exams are due by the scheduled dates. If an assignment or exam is submitted late, then an automatic -11 points will be deducted from your grade.
7. All assignments are due when stated. If an assignment or exam is submitted late, the deadline to submit late work is 7 days after the original due date with the penalty points assigned. Any work submitted 7 days after the original due date will be given a zero.
8. Additional course policies are outlined in “Classroom Policies” provided at the beginning of the semester.
9. Students are expected to follow the Lamar Institute of Technology Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.
10. Any violation of classroom policies may result in student being asked to leave class and result in an absence.
11. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course or no longer complete the assigned work and you intend to drop the class, you MUST complete the course drop process through Student Services. If you do not officially drop the course, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course.
12. The instructor will respond to e-mail and voice mail communication within 48 hours Monday through Friday. Assignment grades will be published within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.
13. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy - AI tools (such as ChatGPT and others) can support learning, but their use in this course is allowed only when the instructor gives permission. Unless stated otherwise, all submitted work must be your own original work. If AI use is permitted for an assignment, you must disclose how you used it and ensure all information is accurate. Using AI when it is not allowed, failing to disclose AI assistance, or submitting AI-generated work as your own is considered academic dishonesty. Student Responsibilities include all submitted work must be your own original work, unless the assignment instructions state otherwise. When AI use is permitted, you must cite or disclose how the tool was used (e.g., “ChatGPT was used to brainstorm topic ideas”). You are responsible for verifying the accuracy of any AI-generated content you choose to use. Misuse of AI- such as submitting AI-generated work as your own, using AI when it is not allowed, or failing to disclose AI assistance- constitutes academic dishonesty. If you are unsure whether AI use is allowed, ask before submitting. Consequences for misuse are listed below.

- a. First violation: Warning and possible resubmission with reduced or no credit
- b. Second violation: Zero on the assignment and possible academic integrity report submitted
- c. Third violation: Failing grade for the course and further institutional action

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students can complete this course without physically visiting the institution offering the course.

1. The student will post discussions as instructed along with any other assignments instructed to complete.
2. The student will search for current ethical issues and submit as part of assignment.
3. The student will complete online quizzes, discussions, and unit exams by the due dates shown on the course calendar.
4. The student will complete the comprehensive final exam at the posted time.
5. The student will correspond with the instructor if there are any questions or issues regarding the course material or meeting due dates.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION (FAQs)**

**1. How quickly are assignments graded in this class?**

Assignments are graded usually within one week.

**2. How do I know what grade I made on an assignment?**

Assignment grades may be accessed through My Grades in Blackboard. Each assignment shows your grade and any comments that are made regarding that assignment.

**3. How do I study for exams?**

Utilize your module assignments/quizzes/study guides in preparation for your module exams and the comprehensive final exam.

You can access them through My Grades on Blackboard. My suggestion is to print the assignments out to use as study references. (If it won't allow you to print them, copy and paste the questions and answers into a word document, save it, and print it out that way).

**4. What time are my assignments/exams/discussions due?**

All assignments, quizzes, exams, and discussions are due at 11:59 PM on the due date listed.

**5. What are examples of acceptable vs. unacceptable use of AI?**

• **Acceptable (when permitted by instructor)**

- Using AI to brainstorm ideas or outline concepts, with proper disclosure
- Using AI for grammar checking or editing assistance
- Using AI as a study tool to explain concepts

• **Unacceptable**

- Submitting AI-generated writing, images, or code as your own
- Using AI to complete quizzes, exams, or other assessments meant to measure your individual understanding

- Using AI after the instructor has explicitly prohibited it
- Failing to disclose AI assistance when required