

Course Details	
Course Code: MHS 540	Professor:
Course Title: Legal & Ethical Considerations in Care Coordination	E-Mail:
Program: Master in Healthcare Management	Term:
Credits: 3	Schedule:
Contact Hours: 48	Delivery:
Prerequisites:	Campus: AU Sunnybrook Road

Course General Information

Course Description:

This course examines the legal and ethical principles that shape care coordination and managerial decision-making across healthcare organizations. Students analyze ethical theories, patient rights, informed consent, confidentiality and privacy, reproductive technologies, aging, public programs, spirituality, healthcare reform, health inequities, emerging technologies, and emergency preparedness. Through case analysis, policy evaluation, structured discussion, and applied recommendations, students develop the ability to balance legal compliance, professional responsibility, quality, safety, equity, access, organizational accountability, and stakeholder interests in complex healthcare environments.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **CLO 1.** Analyze ethical theories, principles, and professional standards applicable to healthcare management and care coordination.
- **CLO 2.** Evaluate legal and regulatory requirements affecting patient rights, privacy, informed consent, confidentiality, and organizational accountability.
- **CLO 3.** Assess complex ethical and legal dilemmas involving reproductive health, aging, spirituality, emerging technologies, public programs, and allocation of healthcare resources.
- **CLO 4.** Evaluate healthcare policies and organizational practices using evidence related to quality, safety, equity, access, and stakeholder impact.
- **CLO 5.** Formulate ethically sound, legally compliant, and strategically aligned recommendations for healthcare organizations and care-coordination systems.
- **CLO 6.** Communicate and defend healthcare decisions professionally while demonstrating accountability, cultural responsiveness, collaboration, and social responsibility.

CLO–Competency–PLO Alignment Matrix

The following matrix demonstrates the alignment among the Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), the MSHM program competencies, and the corresponding Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs). It illustrates how each course outcome contributes to the progressive development of the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors expected of MSHM students.

Course Learning Outcome	Competencies	PLO Alignment
CLO 1	Analytical Thinking; Professional & Social Responsibility	PLO2, PLO4, PLO7
CLO 2	Accountability; Analytical Thinking; Organizational Awareness; Professional & Social Responsibility	PLO2, PLO4, PLO7
CLO 3	Analytical Thinking; Interpersonal Understanding; Self-Awareness; Professional & Social Responsibility	PLO2, PLO4, PLO7
CLO 4	Performance Measurement; Process & Quality Improvement; Health System Awareness; Analytical Thinking	PLO2, PLO6, PLO7
CLO 5	Strategic Orientation; Decision-Making; Innovation; Professional & Social Responsibility	PLO2, PLO4, PLO6, PLO7
CLO 6	Communication Skills; Team Leadership; Accountability; Professional & Social Responsibility	PLO4, PLO5, PLO7

Module Alignment

Module	Topic	CLO Alignment	Competencies	Primary Assessment Evidence
1	Healthcare Ethics: Theory and Principles	CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 5, CLO 6	Analytical Thinking; Professional & Social Responsibility; Organizational Awareness; Accountability; Decision-Making; Communication Skills	Principles of Healthcare Ethics Reading Summary; Ethical Dilemma Analysis Simulator; Ethical Decision-Making in Healthcare Group Presentation
2	Moral Review on Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy	CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 6, CLO 5	Analytical Thinking; Professional & Social Responsibility; Organizational Awareness; Interpersonal Understanding; Communication Skills; Strategic Orientation; Decision-Making	Reproductive Health Case Study Reflection; Reproductive Technology Policy Review; Reproductive Rights Discussion Forum; Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Ethical Analysis Simulator
3	Ethics in Aging, Medicare,	CLO 3, CLO 2,	Analytical Thinking; Interpersonal Understanding;	Aging-Care Policy Evaluation; Ethical Challenges in Aging Healthcare Case Study

	Medicaid, and Patient Safety	CLO 4, CLO 5	Professional & Social Responsibility; Health System Awareness; Organizational Awareness; Accountability; Performance Measurement; Process & Quality Improvement; Strategic Orientation; Decision-Making	Reflection; Aging Populations and Government Programs Discussion Forum; Aging, Medicare, Medicaid and Patient Safety Analysis Simulator
4	Ethics in Healthcare Systems	CLO 2, CLO 4, CLO 3, CLO 5	Organizational Awareness; Analytical Thinking; Accountability; Performance Measurement; Process & Quality Improvement; Professional & Social Responsibility; Strategic Orientation; Decision-Making	Healthcare-System Ethics Audit and Policy Evaluation; Ethical System Challenges Case Study Reflection; Healthcare Systems Ethical Analysis Simulator
5	Spirituality in Healthcare	CLO 3, CLO 2, CLO 6, CLO 5	Interpersonal Understanding; Self-Awareness; Professional & Social Responsibility; Analytical Thinking; Organizational Awareness; Communication Skills; Decision-Making	Spirituality in Patient Care Reading Summary; Balancing Spirituality and Ethics Discussion Forum; Culturally Responsive Care Plan; Spirituality in Healthcare Ethical Analysis Simulator
6	Ethics of Healthcare Reform	CLO 2, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 6	Health System Awareness; Analytical Thinking; Professional & Social Responsibility; Performance Measurement; Process & Quality Improvement; Strategic Orientation; Decision-Making; Communication Skills; Accountability	Healthcare Reform Policy Brief and Policy Critique; Ethical Challenges in Reform Case Study Reflection; Ethics of Healthcare Reform Policy Analysis Simulator
7	Future of Healthcare: Inequalities and Inequities	CLO 4, CLO 3, CLO 5, CLO 6	Health System Awareness; Analytical Thinking; Professional & Social Responsibility; Performance Measurement; Process & Quality Improvement; Organizational Awareness; Strategic Orientation; Team	Health Equity Improvement Proposal and Group Project; Ethical Implications of Health Inequalities Data Analysis Reflection; Inequalities and Inequities Simulator

			Leadership; Accountability	
8	Ethical Dilemmas of Epidemics and Disaster Planning	CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 6	Health System Awareness; Accountability; Professional & Social Responsibility; Decision- Making; Analytical Thinking; Performance Measurement; Strategic Orientation; Team Leadership; Communication Skills	Emergency Ethics Response Plan and Presentation; Epidemics and Disaster Planning Simulator; Reducing Health Inequalities Group Project

In this course, students will develop core competencies essential for ethical decision-making and responsible management in healthcare. Emphasis will be placed on ethical theories and principles, reproductive technology and surrogacy, aging, Medicare and Medicaid, patient safety, healthcare systems, spirituality, healthcare reform, health inequities, and emergency and disaster planning. Students will examine how organizational policies, cultural perspectives, and stakeholder needs influence ethical choices and professional accountability.

Through ethical analysis simulations, case studies, policy reviews, discussions, and collaborative projects, students will apply ethical frameworks to complex healthcare dilemmas and formulate evidence-based recommendations. Upon completion, students will be equipped to evaluate healthcare policies and practices, develop culturally responsive care and emergency ethics response plans, and propose improvements that promote patient safety, health equity, and professional and social responsibility.

Course materials/learning resources:

Textbook 1 Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century 4th Edition. 2019. Author/Publisher: By Eileen E. Morrison and Beth Furlong. Publisher Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN Number: Print version is ISBN: 9781284124910, 1284124916. eTextbook option is ISBN: 9781284164664, 1284164667.

This text is organized around the four central themes of healthcare ethics (theoretical foundations and issues for individuals, organizations, and society), Health Care Ethics, Fourth Edition brings together the insights of a diverse panel of leading experts in the fields of bioethics, long-term care, and health administration, among others. Students will build on this critical platform to develop an extensive toolbox of analytical and problem-solving skills. The fully revised and updated Fourth Edition addresses current changes in health care, including three new chapters covering ethical issues related to Health Information Management, Patient Safety, and Epidemics. All other chapters have been updated to reflect the most recent developments in medical technology and new challenges faced by health care professionals in the era of the ACA.

See Supplemental Journal Articles and or handouts or online uploads in assigned class. See articles review/critique/case studies under weekly assignments if applicable.

Note: Fieldtrips TBA and class syllabus will be adjusted at the professor's discretion to accommodate Fieldtrips and/or Guest Speakers/Public Patients.

Assessment Classification and CLO Alignment

The following distribution identifies the graded evidence for each assessment category. Foundational components assess accurate explanation, comparison, and structured reflection. Higher-level components require ethical and legal analysis, stakeholder judgment, policy evaluation, equity and safety assessment, care-coordination planning, and justified recommendations. The assigned level must be reflected in the scoring rubric.

Assessment	Weight	CLO	Competency	Level	Classification rationale
Foundational readings, summaries, discussions, and structured reflections	30%	CLO 1–3, CLO 6	Professional and Social Responsibility; Communication Skills; Interpersonal Understanding	Lower	Verifies accurate explanation of ethical theories, legal concepts, patient rights, public programs, policy issues, and structured reflection on professional responsibilities.
Ethical and legal case analyses and simulations	15%	CLO 1–3, CLO 5–6	Professional and Social Responsibility; Analytical Thinking; Accountability; Organizational Awareness	Higher	Requires stakeholder analysis, application of ethical and legal frameworks, comparison of alternatives, consequences, and a defensible action.
Policy review, critique, and healthcare-system evaluation	15%	CLO 2–5	Analytical Thinking; Strategic Orientation; Organizational Awareness; Professional and Social Responsibility	Higher	Requires evaluation of policy evidence, legal compliance, access, quality, safety, equity, organizational effects, and recommended improvement.
Reproductive, aging, spirituality, and vulnerable-population decisions	10%	CLO 1–3, CLO 5–6	Interpersonal Understanding; Professional and Social Responsibility; Communication Skills; Accountability	Higher	Requires culturally responsive reasoning, competing-rights analysis, patient advocacy, legal and ethical safeguards, and justified care-coordination decisions.
Healthcare reform and equity data analysis	10%	CLO 3–6	Analytical Thinking; Performance Measurement; Strategic Orientation; Community Collaboration	Higher	Requires interpretation of disparity or policy evidence, structural analysis, stakeholder consequences, and an equity-focused intervention.
Group project and presentation on reducing health inequalities	10%	CLO 3–6	Project Management; Team Leadership; Community Collaboration; Communication Skills	Higher	Requires collaborative intervention design, implementation planning, evidence, individual accountability, presentation, and defense.
Epidemic and disaster ethics synthesis	10%	CLO 1–6	Multiple competencies	Higher	Requires integration of law, ethics, triage, allocation, public health duties, stakeholder communication, preparedness planning, and defensible recommendations.

Grading Scale Policy

Performance Level	Grade	Percentage
Exceeds Expectations	A	90–100%
Meets Expectations	B	80–89%
Minimally Meets Expectations	C	70–79%
Does Not Meet Expectations	D/F	Below 70%

This format is consistent with graduate-level expectations: a grade of C (70–79%) represents the minimum course performance level, while competency achievement is documented at the criterion level using the 80% benchmark.

Assessment Category	Earned Percentage
Foundational readings, summaries, discussions, and structured reflections	30%
Ethical and legal case analyses and simulations	15%
Policy review, critique, and healthcare-system evaluation	15%
Reproductive, aging, spirituality, and vulnerable-population decisions	10%
Healthcare reform and equity data analysis	10%
Group project and presentation on reducing health inequalities	10%
Epidemic and disaster ethics synthesis	10%
Total	100%

Note: The grade will be released weekly during the academic term and according to the curriculum, the learning pace and the performance of the students in this class.