

HLTH 1100 Health Career Exploration

Location: CN 1.102 **Time:** Thursdays 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Instructor contact information: Dr. K. Byrnes

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Office hours: Wednesdays (10:00 to noon) or by appointment

Office: HH 2.132 **Office Phone:** 972-883-2323

Course Pre-Requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:

This course is restricted to Pre-Health students only; instructor permission is required.

Course Description:

This one-hour course centers on a series of guest speakers and aims to help Pre-Health students to learn about a broad array of health careers. Students can develop a holistic appreciation for the healthcare industry and an understanding of the skills, education and experience required for various healthcare fields.

Those taking Pre-Health Career Exploration should become especially well prepared to select courses and activities that prepare them to succeed in professional school. Furthermore and most importantly, students will have opportunities to refine their interests through conversations with professionals and to discern what health field may suit them best over a multi-decade career.

Speakers will include representatives from a broad range of fields including medical, dental, pharmacy, optometry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, podiatry, nutrition and more.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 1) Describe a broad array of career options for Pre-Health students.
- 2) Describe the requirements for admission into various health professions programs.
- 3) Identify interesting career fields and appreciate the roles within a field.
- 4) Develop an understanding of the environments healthcare professionals work in and daily work responsibilities.

Student Expectations:

- 1) Attend every class session.
- 2) Exercise professionalism and respect when dealing with the many industry professionals you meet during the course.
- 3) Demonstrate collegiate writing: formal and organized composition.

Suggested Reading:

Donaldson, R.M., Lundren, K.S., & Spiro, H.M. (2003). The Yale Guide To Careers In Medicine & The Health Professions: Pathways To Medicine In The 21st Century. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Class Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. As our speakers are respected area professionals, students are expected to arrive prepared and remain attentive. Disrespectful behavior during presentations (including sleeping, talking and texting) is not permitted.

Requirements for an **excused** absence (no exceptions):

- Students may request an excused absence to participate in UTD competitive teams (athletic and intellectual) by providing an official Intercollegiate Competition Memo signed by John Jackson **prior** to any sanctioned absences. Students must inform the instructor of the impending absence **at least 2 weeks prior** to the absence.
- Absences due to illness or medical appointments may be excused with a doctor's note.
- Any anticipated absence arranged through Disability Services must be shared with the instructor **at least 2 weeks prior** to the absence.
- Students observing a holy day must inform the instructor **before** the class day to be missed.

Classroom Policies

- Cell phones should be turned **OFF** during class. Calls and text messages are not to be answered or placed during class.
- Laptop computers are not necessary for any reason in this course. Please **DO NOT OPEN THEM AT ANY TIME** during class.
- Arriving late is disruptive and will affect your attendance and participation grade. If you have a legitimate reason for being late, please inform your instructor ahead of time or immediately after class.

The University of Texas at Dallas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing **authorized documentation** through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.utdallas.edu/student/sliffe/hcsvc.html. Please visit the office of Disability Services in Student Union (1.610) or call at 972.883.2098 to obtain proper paperwork for this class.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – 1/17: Introduction to course. Review of syllabus.

Week 2 – 1/24: Guest speaker #1

Week 3 – 1/31: Guest speaker #2

Week 4 – 2/7: Guest speaker #3

Week 5 – 2/14: Guest speaker #4

Week 6 – 2/21: Guest Speaker #5

Week 7 – 2/28: Guest Speaker #6

(Response Journals for guest speakers #1 - #5 DUE: Feb. 28)

Week 8 – 3/7: Guest speaker #7

Week 9 – 3/14: Spring Break - no class

Week 10 – 3/21: Guest speaker #8

Week 11 – 3/28: Guest speaker #9

Week 12 – 4/4: Guest speaker #10

(Career Direction Paper DUE)

Week 13 – 4/11: Guest speaker #11

Week 14 – 4/18: Guest speaker #12

Week 15 – 4/25: Guest Speaker #13

Week 16 – 5/2: Response Journals for guest speakers #6 - #13 DUE: May 2

Assignment Format

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Expectations for written assignments:

- Write organized, thoughtful responses that completely addresses the prompt.
- College level vocabulary and grammar.
- **Format:** typed, double-spaced, 12 point font with one-inch margins.
Add page numbers.

General credit guidelines for written assignments:

- Percentage credit based on how well the prompt is addressed. Responses should be thoughtful and all aspects addressed.
- 5-10% deduction for incorrect format.

Response Journal

Follow the 4-section format below to complete a detailed response for each speaker.

To receive highest credit, base your thoughtful responses on detailed notes taken during class.

Speaker name:

Date:

Speaker number #

Profession:

Preparation - Course of training? Type/length of schools, residencies, fellowships, etc.?
Recommended undergraduate preparation? Tips for successful entry.

The Job – Work schedule? Daily tasks? Possible work environments? Skills used? How compensated? What are the most necessary skills for success in field?

Career Advancement - What career advancement is available? Are specialty tracks or career path options available? What is required to pursue each?

Your response...

What aspects of this occupation appeal to you? Give specific examples.

What aspects of this career would deter you from pursuing this field? Explain your answer.

Length of each response journal: 2 pages

Career Direction Paper

Topic: Discuss your personal motivation for your career path in health care. Include in your discussion five distinct factors you considered in guiding your career selection. Some factors typical in career selection include required education, daily tasks and compensation, but there are many more factors to consider in this decision.

Follow the writing guidelines indicated in the course syllabus.

Indicate the specific career in health care that you are discussing (i.e. physical therapist, dentist)

The paper will be a minimum of five pages in length.

Course requirements:

Class attendance, participation and professionalism	25%
Response Journals	50%
Career Direction paper	25%

