PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

SPECIAL TOPICS: LAW AND MEDICINE
LAW 2600

Class Hours: 3.0  Credit Hours: 3.0
Laboratory Hours: 0.0  Revised: Spring 2010

NOTE: This course is not designed for transfer credit.

Catalog Course Description:

Study and discussion of a selected topic in law. Content will vary. May be repeated with program advisor's consent.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level competencies in logic, reading, and English are required.

Prerequisite:

LAW 1000

Co-requisite:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

1. Walston-Dunham, Beth; *Medical Malpractice Law and Litigation* (Thomson/Delmar Learning, 2006).
2. Computer data storage device, such as a travel drive.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1    | **Chapters 1-2**: Introduction; Health Care Specialists and Medical Specialists (1 hour)  
  Health Care Standards v. the Standard of Care (1 hour)  
  Development of Medical Malpractice Law (1 hour) |
| 2    | **Chapters 4**: Medical Research for the lawsuit (2 hours)  
  Risk Management in the Health Care Industry (1 hour) |
| 3    | **Chapters 3**: Medical Practice Acts in Tennessee (1 hour)  
  Laws Affecting Health Care Facilities (1.5 hours)  
  Medical Terminology (.5 hour) |
| 4    | **Chapters 5-6**: The Insurance Maze (1.5 hours)  
  Health Care Provider Organizations (1 hour) |
II. Course Objectives*

The Student Should:

A. Demonstrate a complete and thorough understanding of legal ethics.  I, III, V
B. Understand the legal concept of the practice of medicine.  I, II, III, IV
C. Identify and differentiate the governmental bodies that regulate health care in Tennessee. II, V
D. Understand the legal concept of the practice of nursing.  I, II, III
E. Understand the purpose of a medical records summary.  II, III
F. Demonstrate how to prepare a medical records summary.  I, II, III, IV, V
G. Demonstrate how to prepare a medical trial exhibit.  I, II, III, IV, V
H. Develop a medical vocabulary.  I, II, III, IV
I. Demonstrate how to acquire medical records.  I, II, III
J. Understand the relationship between law and medicine.  I, II, III, IV

K. Understand the life cycle of the doctor’s order. II, III, IV

L. Demonstrate the ability to find statutory law relating to medical practice acts. III, IV, V

M. Distinguish between health care standards and the “reasonable person” standard of care. III

N. Understand how to prepare for a medical lawsuit. II, III

O. Continue developing a legal vocabulary. I, II, III, IV, V

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Paralegal Studies program.

**III. Instructional Processes***:

Students will:

1. Practice elements of the work ethic such as professionalism, preparedness, punctuality, honesty, cooperation, dependability, contribution, effectiveness, good manners, etc.  *Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy*

2. Refine reading skills and expand legal vocabularies through completion of weekly guided reading exercises that allows more effective communication with lawyers and legal professionals.  *Communication Outcome, Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Outcome*

3. Strengthen research skills by orienting to the medical library and to Internet sources of medical information.  *Social/Behavioral Sciences Outcome, Technological Literacy Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*

4. Examine ethical issues related to legal representation, unauthorized practice of law, confidentiality, duty of legal professional to provide legal services, etc  *Social/Behavioral Science Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*

5. Listen to guest speakers from the legal community to learn the demands for legal assistants who possess basic knowledge of legal topics in the work world.  *Transitional Strategy*

6. Develop investigative skills using the Internet, library, and governmental agency resources to find relevant information.  *Technological Literacy Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*

7. Develop analytical skills using the medical record to find, prioritize, and organize relevant information.  *Technological Literacy Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State’s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

**IV. Expectations for Student Performance***:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Identify the laws in Tennessee that pertain to the practice of medicine and health care. (B, C, L, N)

2. Learn the different health care specialist and medical specialties. (B, C, D, E, H, L, M)

3. Learn basic medical terminology, including but not limited to body systems terminology, surgical and medical procedures, medical instruments and machines, diagnostic and laboratory abbreviations and basic pharmacology. (E, F, G, H, K, L, N)

4. Identify and differentiate between the basic types of health care provider organizations such as hospitals, trauma centers, long-term care facilities, physician offices, and assisted living facilities. (C, J, L)

5. Be able to obtain, read, organize and analyze the basic medical record. (A, F, G, H, I, N, O)

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

Students are evaluated primarily on the basis of tests. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a syllabus supplement.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

Students will work in small groups to research an assigned topic then make a class presentation on that topic. These may include the education, training, and practice of nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical doctors, osteopathic doctors, pharmacists, chiropractors, or podiatrists; the function of JCAHO, and other topics.

C. Field Work:

Students will complete several out-of-class skills projects. These may include:

- Medical Research
- Preparation of Trial Exhibits
- Chronological Analysis of Medical Records and Events
- Analysis of Medical Records
- Analysis of Medical Depositions

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

1. Class participation, group work, and homework will also comprise the final grade for the course. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a syllabus supplement.

2. All tests and papers will be graded for spelling and English usage in addition to content and format.

3. Any student encountering academic difficulty during the term is strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss options and solutions.
E. Grading Scale:

- **A** 93-100
- **B+** 88-92
- **B** 83-87
- **C+** 78-82
- **C** 73-77
- **D** 65-72
- **F** 64 and below

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Attendance is absolutely essential to perform well in this course. Absenteeism is recorded, not excused. Twelve (12) hours of absences will result in an automatic F for the course. *(Pellissippi State Online Catalog)*

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating of any type will not be tolerated and will become an automatic zero on that paper or test. Repetition of cheating will result in an F for the final grade. *(Pellissippi State Online Catalog)*

C. Accommodation for Disabilities:

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform the instructor immediately. Please see the instructor privately after class or in his/her office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127 or 131 or by phone: 694-6751(Voice/TTY) or 539-7153.

D. Other Policies:

Late papers will not be accepted nor will make-up tests be given without specific approval of the instructor.

Computer Usage Guidelines:
College-owned or operated computing resources are provided for use by students of Pellissippi State. All students are responsible for the usage of Pellissippi State’s computing resources in an effective, efficient, ethical and lawful manner. *(Pellissippi State Online Catalog)*