

Pellissippi State Community College  
Master Syllabus

**LAW & MEDICINE**  
**LEGL 2305**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Spring 2017

**Catalog Course Description**

An introduction to the laws regulating the health care industry, medical research, and emphasis on the paralegal's role in obtaining and organizing medical records.

**Prerequisites**

LEGL 1300

**Textbooks and Other Course Materials**

Walston-Dunham, Beth, *Medical Malpractice: Law and Litigation* (Thomson Delmar Learning) 2006, ISBN #1-4018-5246-7.

**Week/Unit/Topic Basis**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	1-2	Introduction- Use of medical information in general litigation (0.5 hr.); Development of Medical Malpractice law (0.5 hr.); Health Care Standards v. the Standard of Care (0.5 hr.); Health care vocabulary (1.0 hr.); Medical specialists(0.5 hr.)
2	3-4	Risk management in the health care industry (1.0 hr.); Causes of action (1.0 hr.); Medical research on diseases and conditions for the lawsuit (1.0 hr.)
3		Medical Practice Acts in Tennessee (1.5 hrs.); Litigation process and planning (0.5 hr.); Good Samaritan Law (0.5 hr.); Ethics and privilege (0.5 hr.)
4	5	The Insurance Maze and TennCare (1.0 hr.); Health Care Provider Organizations (1.0 hr.); Drugs and drug research (1.0 hr.)
5		Orientation to the Medical Record (1.0 hr.); Obtaining copies of medical records (1.5 hrs.); HIPAA (0.5 hr.)
6		Vicarious liability and respondeat superior in medical cases (1.5 hr.); Leading court cases (1.5 hrs.)
7	6-8	Investigation of a potential claim by the plaintiff (1.0 hr.); investigation of a potential claim by the defendant (1.0 hr.); The life cycle of a doctor's order and location of data (1.0 hr.)
8	9	Advance directives (1.0 hr.); analysis of medical records (2.0 hrs.)
9		Preparation of chronologies for discovery and trial (3.0 hrs.)
10		The medical deposition; (1.0 hr.); ethics (2.0 hrs.)
11	9	Pretrial Stages of a medical malpractice claim (1.5 hrs.); Discovery tools: Release of medical records, Interrogatories, Request for Production of documents (1.5 hrs.)
12	10	The trial notebook (1.0 hr.); The medical malpractice trial (2.0 hrs.)
13		Medical trial exhibits (3.0 hrs.)
14		Medical trial exhibits project presentations (3.0 hr.)
15		Final Examination

## Course Goals

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

The course will

- A. Introduce students to medical terminology. (II, III, IV)
- B. Expand student understanding of legal ethics. ( I, II)
- C. Introduce medical research and basic procedures to obtain health care information. (II, III, IV, V)
- D. Develop the students' awareness of ethics and laws used in handling patient medical records and documents. (I, II)
- E. Provide students practical experience of organizing and analyzing medical records. (II,III,IV)
- F. Guide students in drafting various forms and documents to obtain health records. (I,II,IV,V)

## Expected Student Learning Outcomes

NOTE: Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

The student will

1. Understand and articulate the legal concept of medical malpractice. (A,D)
2. Identify, obtain, organize, analyze, and summarize medical records including records protected by HIPAA. (C,D,E,F)
3. Identify and understand the role of health insurance companies and management groups in the provision of health care. (C,D,F)
4. Identify and differentiate among the governmental bodies that regulate health care in Tennessee. (A,C,D)
5. Demonstrate a complete and thorough understanding of legal ethics. (B)

## Evaluation

### Testing Procedures: 70%

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

### Laboratory Expectations: N/A

### Field Work: 20%

Students will complete numerous out-of-class skills projects, which may include:

1. Research on medical topics, drugs, treatments, and health care providers
2. Drafting Release for Medical Records, discovery requests, and pleadings
3. Organization and Analysis of medical records

### Other Evaluation Methods: 10%

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 supplementary syllabus.
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.

### **Grading Scale**

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

### **Policies**

#### **Attendance Policy**

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

#### **Accommodations for Disabilities**

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course. [Disability Services](#) (<http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>) may be contacted via [Disability Services email](#) or by visiting Alexander 130.