



This course supports the assessment for Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare. The course covers 5 competencies and represents 3 competency units.

Introduction

Overview

Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare prepares you to manage health information in compliance with legal guidelines and teaches you how to respond to questions and challenges when legal issues occur. It also illustrates the types of situations occurring in health information management which could result in ethical dilemmas, and establishes a foundation for your work based on legal and ethical guidelines.

Watch the following video introduction for this course:

Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 5 competencies:

- **Competency 730.3.1: Legislative and Legal Systems**
The graduate applies common procedural and conceptual aspects of the law relating to health information management in situations that arise within healthcare organizations.
- **Competency 730.3.2: Laws, Regulations, and Standards for Health Information/ Informatics**
The graduate evaluates management policies and practices for legal health records and recognizes consequences for healthcare organizations when records are used to substantiate healthcare law.
- **Competency 730.3.3: Legal Aspects of Risk Management and Quality Improvement**
The graduate evaluates the confluence of quality improvement and risk management practices that support favorable legal outcomes for healthcare organizations.
- **Competency 730.3.4: Ethical Issues in Professional Practice**
The graduate analyzes how ethics influence appropriate decision-making processes in healthcare organizations.
- **Competency 730.3.5: Compliance Programs**
The graduate applies compliance requirements identified by government regulations and by accreditation, licensing, and certification agencies to mitigate legal risk to healthcare organizations.

Course Instructor Assistance

As you prepare to successfully demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course instructors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, mentors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course instructors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.

Successful students report that working with a course instructor is the key to their success.



Course instructors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you're studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don't work out on your first try, course instructors act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course instructors for the duration of your coursework, so you are welcome to contact them as soon as you begin. Course instructors are fully committed to your success!

Preparing for Success

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

Learning Resources

The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course. For many resources, WGU has provided automatic access through the course. However, you may need to manually enroll in or independently acquire other resources. Read the full instructions provided to ensure that you have access to all of your resources in a timely manner.

Automatically Enrolled Resources

You can access the learning resources listed in this section by clicking on the links provided throughout the course. You may be prompted to log in to the WGU student portal to access the resources.

Soomo Learning Environment

The following learning environment will be utilized as the primary learning resource for completion of this course:

- [Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare](#)

This learning environment will contain links at the activity level to the following additional learning resources:

VitalSource E-Texts

The following textbooks are available to you as e-texts within the Soomo learning environment. You will be directly linked to the specific readings required within the learning environment activities.

- Grebner, L. (2009). *Ethics case studies for health information management*. Clifton Park, New Jersey: Delmar Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1-4180-4930-0
- LaTour, K., Maki, S., & Oachs, P. (Eds.). (2013). *Health information management: Concepts, principles, and practice* (4th ed.). Chicago, IL: AHIMA. ISBN-13: 9781584263593
- McWay, D. (2010). *Legal and ethical aspects of health information management* 3rd edition. Clifton Park, New Jersey: Delmar Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1-4354-8330-9
- Schnering, P. (2014). *Professional review guide for the RHIA and RHIT examinations*.



Cengage. ISBN 9781305325111

Note: These e-texts are available to you as part of your program tuition and fees, but you may purchase hard copies at your own expense through a retailer of your choice. If you choose to do so, please use the ISBN listed to ensure that you receive the correct edition.

Pacing Guide

The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe.

- [Pacing Guide: Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare](#)

Note: This pacing guide does not replace the course. Please continue to refer to the course for a comprehensive list of the resources and activities.

Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare Learning Environment

All activities and learning resources for this course are found by accessing the Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare learning environment.

Learning Environment

The material for this course is housed in a separate learning environment. In this learning resource, you will be able to

- complete the activities and reading assignments,
- complete quizzes, and
- communicate with your mentor and other students.

Once you have completed the material within the learning environment, you should return to this course.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 730.3.1: Legislative and Legal Systems**
The graduate applies common procedural and conceptual aspects of the law relating to health information management in situations that arise within healthcare organizations.
- **Competency 730.3.2: Laws, Regulations, and Standards for Health Information/ Informatics**
The graduate evaluates management policies and practices for legal health records and recognizes consequences for healthcare organizations when records are used to substantiate healthcare law.
- **Competency 730.3.3: Legal Aspects of Risk Management and Quality Improvement**
The graduate evaluates the confluence of quality improvement and risk management practices that support favorable legal outcomes for healthcare organizations.



- **Competency 730.3.4: Ethical Issues in Professional Practice**

The graduate analyzes how ethics influence appropriate decision-making processes in healthcare organizations.

- **Competency 730.3.5: Compliance Programs**

The graduate applies compliance requirements identified by government regulations and by accreditation, licensing, and certification agencies to mitigate legal risk to healthcare organizations.

Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare Environment

Access the learning environment for this course by clicking the following link:

- [Legal and Ethical Considerations in Healthcare](#)

Final Steps

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessment associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessment, schedule and complete your assessment now.

The WGU Library

The WGU Library

The [WGU Library](#) is available online to WGU students 24 hours a day.

For more information about using the WGU Library, view the following videos on [The WGU Channel](#):

Introducing the WGU library

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).

Searching the WGU library

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).

Center for Writing Excellence: The WGU Writing Center

If you need help with any part of the writing or revision process, contact the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Whatever your needs—writing anxiety, grammar, general college writing concerns, or even ESL language-related writing issues—the CWE is available to help you. The CWE offers personalized individual sessions and weekly group webinars. For an appointment, please e-mail writingcenter@wgu.edu.



Feedback

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:

- [Course Feedback](#)