This course covers 13 competencies and represents 3 competency units.

**Introduction**

**Overview**
Pathophysiology is the study of the biologic and physical manifestations of diseases in the body. Pathophysiology is not intended to treat these manifestations, but to explain the processes in the body that result in the signs and symptoms of disease. A background in anatomy and physiology is helpful when learning about these disease manifestations and their effects.

The minimally qualified student attempting this course demonstrates familiarity with basic pathophysiology concepts. They are also able to identify manifestations and disease processes and apply this information to various activities required in the application of health informatics/information management.

To pass this course, you must pass one proctored assessment covering the same material found within this course. Use the preassessment in the course to guide your areas of focus as you study and prepare for the final assessment. Your program mentor can help you access the preassessment and you can use the coaching report to determine areas to concentrate on before embarking on the final assessment.

**Competencies for Pathophysiology**
This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 13 competencies:

- **Competency 736.1.1: Organization of the Human Body**
  The graduate analyzes how the organization of the human body and body systems relates to the physiological functions of the body and impacts disease processes.

- **Competency 736.1.2: Tissues, Glands, and Membranes**
  The graduate analyzes the composition of tissues, glands and membranes and how pathological changes in these structures impact the human body.

- **Competency 736.1.3: Integumentary System**
  The graduate analyzes common skin disorders of the integumentary system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

- **Competency 736.1.4: Sensory System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the sense organs and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

- **Competency 736.1.5: Skeletal and Muscular Systems**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the musculoskeletal system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

- **Competency 736.1.6: Digestive System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the digestive system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.
• Competency 736.1.7: Blood, Vessels, and Circulation
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the blood, vessels, and circulation and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

• Competency 736.1.8: Lymphatic System, Immunity and Disease
The graduate analyzes the relationship between the lymphatic system and immunity and disease in the human body and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures related to lymphatic disorders and immunity.

• Competency 736.1.9: Heart and Respiratory System
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the heart and respiratory system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

• Competency 736.1.10: Nervous System
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

• Competency 736.1.11: Urinary System
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the urinary system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

• Competency 736.1.12: Endocrine System
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the endocrine system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

• Competency 736.1.13: Male and Female Reproductive Systems
The graduate analyzes common disorders of the male and female reproductive systems and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

Course Instructor Assistance
As you prepare to 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, and you are encouraged to contact them as soon as you begin. Course instructors are fully committed to your success!

Coursework
The course work suggests an order for your learning activities. The content for this course is broken into 11 sections, covering the 13 competencies. You may complete two or three sections
a week, or work at your own pace.

Each reading assignment in the e-text includes interactive questions at the end of the chapters. Once you have completed these questions, you will find that the correct answers are provided for you. These answers will help you prepare for the final assessment.

**Organization of the Human Body**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.1: Organization of the Human Body**
  The graduate analyzes how the organization of the human body and body systems relates to the physiological functions of the body and impacts disease processes.

**Tissues, Glands, and Membranes**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.2: Tissues, Glands, and Membranes**
  The graduate analyzes the composition of tissues, glands and membranes and how pathological changes in these structures impact the human body.

**Integumentary System**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.3: Integumentary System**
  The graduate analyzes common skin disorders of the integumentary system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

**Sensory System**

Explore and Practice

**Chapter 1: The Disease Process**

**Chapter 5: Cancer**

**Chapter 8: Skin Diseases and Disorders**
Chapter 17: Eye and Ear Diseases and Disorders

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.4: Sensory System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the sense organs and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

Skeletal and Muscular Systems

Explore and Practice

**Chapter 9: Musculoskeletal Diseases and Disorders**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.5: Skeletal and Muscular Systems**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the musculoskeletal system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

Digestive System

Explore and Practice

**Chapter 14: Digestive System Diseases and Disorders**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.6: Digestive System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the digestive system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

Heart; Respiratory System; Blood Vessels and Circulation; Lymphatic System; Immunity and Disease

Explore and Practice

**Chapter 12: Cardiovascular and Lymphatic Systems Diseases and Disorders**

**Chapter 4: Infectious and Communicable Diseases**

**Chapter 13: Respiratory System Diseases and Disorders**

To prepare for this topic, please complete the Practice and Exercise sections under the Heart
This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 736.1.9: Heart and Respiratory System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the heart and respiratory system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

- **Competency 736.1.7: Blood, Vessels, and Circulation**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the blood, vessels, and circulation and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

- **Competency 736.1.8: Lymphatic System, Immunity and Disease**
  The graduate analyzes the relationship between the lymphatic system and immunity and disease in the human body and associates appropriate diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures related to lymphatic disorders and immunity.

**Nervous System**

Explore and Practice

**Chapter 10: Nervous System Diseases and Disorders**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.10: Nervous System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

**Urinary System**

Explore and Practice

**Chapter 15: Urinary Diseases and Disorders**

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.11: Urinary System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the urinary system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

**Endocrine System**

Explore and Practice
Chapter 11: Endocrine System Diseases and Disorders

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.12: Endocrine System**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the endocrine system and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

Male and Female Reproductive Systems

Explore and Practice

Chapter 16: Reproductive System Diseases and Disorders

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 736.1.13: Male and Female Reproductive Systems**
  The graduate analyzes common disorders of the male and female reproductive systems and associates appropriate diagnostic tests, and therapeutic procedures with these disorders.

Final Assessment Tips

One of the many things that makes WGU unique is its competency-based education model. If you know the material, all you have to do is prove it by passing the exam. If you can do this, you can accelerate the receipt of your degree.

To make sure you have the best chance possible to pass the exam on your first attempt, the following steps should be completed successfully before you take it:

- Read, review, and utilize the learning resource in its entirety.

If you have completed the steps above and you feel comfortable with all of the concepts presented, you are most likely ready to attempt the exam and should request approval from your program mentor.

If you fail your first attempt, you will be required to work with a course instructor to make a modified study plan, and to obtain an additional attempt approval. After determining you are ready, your course instructor will approve your next exam attempt.