



## COURSE OUTLINE: HCA115 - ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE

Prepared: Rebecca Keown, BA(Hons), MBHL

Approved: Martha Irwin, Dean, Business and Information Technology

<b>Course Code: Title</b>	HCA115: ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION
<b>Program Number: Name</b>	2186: HEALTH CARE ADMIN
<b>Department:</b>	BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS
<b>Academic Year:</b>	2024-2025
<b>Course Description:</b>	In this course, students will study foundational principles and models of ethical decision-making used to approach ethical issues in the health care environment covering ethics from the bedside to the boardroom. Using case studies and examples from current affairs, students will apply theory to real situations learning about the impact of ethical decision-making on operational and strategic goals of an organization and exploring ethical errors. This course will examine ethical issues such as: consent and capacity, resource allocation, the provider-patient relationship, medical assistance in dying and other end-of-life issues, reproduction, contested therapies and technologies, and other topics of practical importance to health care administrators.
<b>Total Credits:</b>	3
<b>Hours/Week:</b>	3
<b>Total Hours:</b>	42
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
<b>Corequisites:</b>	There are no co-requisites for this course.
<b>This course is a pre-requisite for:</b>	HCL401
<b>Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:</b>	<b>2186 - HEALTH CARE ADMIN</b>
<b>Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.</b>	VLO 3 Utilize progressive, professional leadership concepts while working within an interprofessional health care team.
	VLO 5 Practice within the legal, ethical and professional scope of practice of a manager in the province of Ontario.
	VLO 7 Support evidence informed decision making, using critical thinking skills and best practices in the administration of a healthcare facility.
	VLO 8 Outline strategies to manage risks in the business activities of a health care organization.
	VLO 9 Maintain ongoing personal and professional development to improve work performance in health care administration.
<b>Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:</b>	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.



- EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.  
 EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.  
 EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.

**Course Evaluation:**

Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

**Books and Required Resources:**

Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus by Johnna Fisher, J. S. Russell, Alister Browne and Leslie Burkholder  
 Publisher: Oxford University Press Edition: 3rd, 2018  
 ISBN: 978-0199022281  
 Print format

Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus by Johnna Fisher, J. S. Russell, Alister Browne and Leslie Burkholder  
 Publisher: Oxford University Press Edition: 3rd, 2018  
 ISBN: 9780199022298  
 eBook format

**Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:**

<b>Course Outcome 1</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</b>
Describe foundational ethical principles, theories and models in health care.	1.1 Explain and explore traditional philosophical foundations of health care ethics. 1.2 Critically evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of key ethical theories and principles. 1.3 Understand various supports health care facilities have in place to support ethical decision-making, and review various ethical decision-making frameworks and models adopted by Canadian hospitals. 1.4 Identify and discuss professional codes of ethics, Accreditation Canada's ethics-related standards, and ethical requirements codified in legislation or regulation.
<b>Course Outcome 2</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2</b>
Define key terms and explain core concepts related to health care ethics.	2.1 Define `ethics` and distinguish it from law and opinion, and recognize an ethical dilemma in health care. 2.2 Distinguish clinical ethics from organizational ethics. 2.3 Understand the importance of ethical decision-making. 2.4 Define the concept of `health` and explore what it means to be healthy. 2.5 Discuss the breadth of ethical topics in health care from the bedside to the boardroom including autonomy, beneficence / non-maleficence, justice, conflict of interest, conscientious objection, futility of treatment, and clinical research.
<b>Course Outcome 3</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3</b>
Critically reflect upon health care ethical issues impacting Canadians.	3.1 Explore and analyze historical and contemporary ethical issues in health care related to consent and capacity, beginning-of-life and end-of-life decisions. allocation of scarce



	resources, and privacy and confidentiality. 3.2 Articulate the major arguments about key ethical issues in health care and appreciate various stakeholders perspectives on those issues. 3.3 Reflect on how various stakeholder perspectives differ to one's own perspective on a particular ethical issue. 3.4 Discuss the impact of ethical errors on health care operations.
<b>Course Outcome 4</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4</b>
Apply ethical frameworks or models to make decisions when faced with ethical dilemmas in a health care environment.	4.1 Critically evaluate the choice of ethical framework or model adopted to help solve a particular ethical dilemma outlining the pros and cons / risks and benefits. 4.2 Understand the impact and influence of one's own personal and professional values, sense of right and wrong, past life experiences, culture, religion, spiritual beliefs, and traditions as well as those of key stakeholders on ethical decision-making. 4.3 Make and defend a decision regarding a contemporary ethical dilemma in health care, and recognize any risks associated with one's decision. 4.4 Demonstrate the ability to present compelling arguments in written form and to present those arguments to peers. 4.5 Participate in and facilitate a respectful and constructive discussion of controversial health care issues with individuals holding contrary views.

**Evaluation Process and Grading System:**

<b>Evaluation Type</b>	<b>Evaluation Weight</b>
Assignments (including written assignments and presentations)	60%
Professional Skills Development	20%
Tests	20%

**Date:** June 9, 2024

**Addendum:** Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.