

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Nursing**

**(OFFICIAL TEMPLATE)**

**COURSE NUMBER:** NURS 458

**COURSE TITLE:** Ethical Challenges in Healthcare Informatics

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3 SH

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A case based collaboratory designed for the exploration and analysis of the ethical dilemmas facing healthcare informatics practitioners.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explore models for ethics decision-making and professional codes of conduct including advocacy and confidentiality.
2. Identify and evaluate professional responsibilities for ethical use of healthcare informatics technology.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking and intellectual responsibility.
4. Examine the ethical implications of global healthcare informatics.
5. Recognize ethical issues in healthcare informatics.
6. Apply the concepts and theories of ethical analysis to ethical dilemmas in healthcare informatics.
7. Synthesize an ethical framework for dealing with selected healthcare informatics dilemmas.
8. Analyze practical ways of managing ethical problems in healthcare informatics.
9. Work responsibly and effectively with teams and individuals.
10. Demonstrate the ability to analyze problems, propose solutions, and make responsible decisions by the means of critical thinking and moral reasoning.

**TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

- I. Exploration of Ethical Frameworks
- II. Ethical Decision Making
- III. Professional Ethics, Codes of Conduct, and Standards of Care
  - A. Advocacy as a Professional Responsibility
  - B. Information Security and Intellectual Property
- IV. Privacy Rights and Confidentiality
- V. Social Implications: Autonomy, Access, and Responsibility
- VI. Technologies in healthcare informatics:
  - Computer based medical records
  - Telehealth
  - Decision Support Technology*
  - Bio-Informatics
  - Global electronic healthcare data sharing
- VII. Collaborative Case Analyses and Application of Ethical Frameworks

**TEACHING METHODOLOGIES MAY INCLUDE (Dependent on Site):**

Lecture/Discussion, Visual Aids, Assignments, Webouts (Electronic Handouts), Access, Hands-on Demonstration, Multimedia Software, Guest Speakers, Brainstorming

**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS (Dependent on Site):**

None. Course is based on current literature.

**GRADE REQUIREMENT:**

Students must achieve a letter grade of C or better (based on the School of Nursing grading scale) in both theory and clinical components of all nursing courses in order to pass the course and progress in the nursing program.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADING SCALE:**

A = 94-100	B = 83-86	C = 75-76
A- = 90-93	B- = 80-82	D = 68-74
B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	F = Below 68

**ACADEMIC PROGRESSION POLICY:**

The Academic Progression policy delineates the academic standards for pre-licensure students (students without an RN license), who are admitted to the undergraduate nursing program. The policy states that **all prerequisite courses may be repeated only one time and failure of two required nursing courses will result in dismissal** from the nursing major. Details of the academic progression policy are available in the student handbook (<http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/nurs/Handbooks/index.html>).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deceptions and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examination, making copies in any manner of exams or papers, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. At the beginning of each course, it is the responsibility of the instructor to provide a statement clarifying the application of academic integrity criteria to that course. A student charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge by the instructor. If students believe they have been falsely accused, they should seek redress through normal discussion with the instructor, department head, dean, or campus executive officer. If the instructor believes that the infraction is sufficiently serious to warrant referral of the case to Judicial Affairs, or if the instructor will award a final grade of "F" in the course because of the infraction, the student and instructor will be afforded formal due process.

## **DISABILITY:**

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about physical access provided, please contact the Office for Disabilities Service as soon as possible.

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

The faculty and staff of the School of Nursing value and are committed to fostering diversity in the classroom, the University, and the profession. By respecting differences in culture, age, gender, gender expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, differing abilities, sexual orientation, and religious affiliation, we enrich the learning environment; improve the practice and profession of Nursing; and enhance personal creativity and professional growth.

## **REGISTRATION STATUS:**

All students in “**Registration Not Complete**” status must resolve issues before the first day of clinical or the 10<sup>th</sup> day after classes begin whichever comes first. Students who do not complete registration will not be able to remain in nursing clinical courses. University policy on completing registration can be found at [http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/completing\\_registration.cfm](http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/completing_registration.cfm)

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT:**

1. Students are responsible for attending all classes, taking notes, and obtaining other materials provided by the instructor, taking tests, and completing assignments as scheduled by the instructor.
  - a. Requests for taking exams or submitting assignments after the due dates require documentation of events such as illness, family emergency or a university sanctioned activity.
  - b. Conflicts with dates on which examinations or assignments are scheduled must be discussed with the instructor or TA prior to the date of the examination or assignment.
2. Students are responsible for keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the instructor throughout the semester.
3. Students are responsible for monitoring their grades.
4. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate missing multiple classes due to events such as chronic illnesses, travel related to team sports, or other university activities. The instructor will determine the minimal attendance and participation required in order to meet course responsibilities.
5. If extra credit assignments are offered, they must be offered to all students and should not be used to boost the grade of an individual student.
6. Behaviors that disrupt other students’ learning are not acceptable (e.g., arriving consistently late for class, cell phone use, reading non-course related materials, or social conversation during class), and will be addressed by the instructor.
7. For severe and chronic problems with student disruptive behavior, the Senate Committee on Student Life Policy on Managing Classroom Disruption will be followed. (<http://www.sa.psu.edu/ja/pdf/classdisrupt.pdf>).

## **FACULTY (Varies by Campus):**

Senate approval 1999  
Revised 2000, 2004  
Revised Fall 2008