



English Health Train *English skills for health professionals*

Course A: 16 weeks, 96 hours

Instructor:

Schedule: Thursday 7-9pm; Saturday 9am – 1pm

E-mail:

Course Syllabus

Course Content and Approach

This course focuses on the development of the communication and job search skills necessary for employment in the health care field in the United States. Topics include health professions in the United States, career pathways, communication with patients and co-workers, health care systems, current critical health issues, and intercultural communication skills.

You will practice the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. We will use activities based on day-to-day health care situations, readings related to health care, and case studies from different health professions. The communicative approach of the course is based on individual, pair, and group tasks and projects. Each class session will include problem-solving and critical-thinking activities in which you will work both individually and collaboratively with classmates.

Program Goals

English Health Train is a one-year program made up of three semester courses in English for Health Professionals. During each of the three courses you will make progress toward the overall program goals. At the end of this program, you will have improved communication skills in English based on your increased ability to:

1. use strategies and skills for pursuing career goals in health care and making informed career choices.
2. communicate effectively and appropriately with patients and families in health care settings.
3. communicate effectively and appropriately with other health care professionals in health care settings.
4. understand systems, requirements, and issues in health care in the United States and California.
5. understand how cross-cultural beliefs, traditions, and behaviors impact everyday communication in health care.
6. use strategies and skills for exploring your own ongoing professional development beyond the current program.

Course Outline: Course A

Module 1: *Exploring Career Goals in Health Care*

Week One: Introduction to Course
Unit 1 - Health Care Professions and Career Paths
Week Two: Unit 2 - Requirements for Entry in the Health Field
Week Three: Unit 3 - Job Search Skills

Module 2: *Communicating with Patients and Families*

Week Four: Unit 1 - The Patient-Health Professional Relationship
Week Five: Unit 2 - Gathering Patient Information
Week Six: Unit 3 - The Patient-Centered Interview

Module 3: *Communicating with Other Health Professionals*

Week Seven: Unit 1 - Interaction among Health Care Workers
Week Eight: Unit 2 - Using Medical Terminology Appropriately
Week Nine: Unit 3 - Assertive Communication with Co-Workers

Module 4: *Exploring Critical Issues in Health Care*

Week Ten: Unit 1 - Understanding Health Care Systems
Week Eleven: Unit 2 - Understanding Health Care Cultures
Week Twelve: Unit 3 - Critical Health Issues in the U.S.

Module 5: *Intercultural Communication in Health Care*

Week Thirteen: Unit 1 - Culture and Communication in Health Care
Week Fourteen: Unit 2 - Beliefs and Traditions about Health and Illness
Week Fifteen: Unit 3 - Cultural Diversity in Health Care
Week Sixteen: Final Projects & Evaluation

Materials

- The English Health Train Project will supply the course binder with all units. You will need to bring other basic materials (pen, notebook, etc.).
- You will need to purchase a portfolio or binder for your portfolio projects.

Homework

At the end of each week, you will have an out-of-class project. This project will give you a real-world opportunity to use what you have learned in class and apply it further to your own health care profession and goals. You will need to spend at least 1-2 hours on each project.

Assessment of Progress

You will work together with the instructor to evaluate your progress based on your in-class and out-of class activities. We will use a variety of assessment methods including *rubrics* for ongoing self assessments and assessments by the instructor. You will be able to review these rubrics periodically to see your progress over time. At the end of the course, you will hand in your portfolio to assess your achievements for the first course and to set goals for the second course of the program.

A Few Reminders

- Come to class regularly, on time, and prepared.
- After three absences, you will need to meet with the instructor and re-assess your commitment to the class.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Participate fully. Don't be afraid to make mistakes because we learn from our mistakes.
- Tell the instructor if you don't understand. Ask questions if you're not sure about something.