

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Foundations of Health Professions

Course Abbreviation and Number: OTA 1550

Credit Hours: 2 credit hour.

Course Type: Lecture/Lab

Course Description: This course provides an overview of healthcare professions, systems, and foundational principles that guide patient care and professional practice. This course explores philosophical, historical, ethical, and professional aspects of health care professions. Students will examine how different health care professions contribute to patient-centered care and will develop skills in critical thinking, professional communication, and ethical reasoning.

Prerequisite: ENG 1510 or Corequisite: ENG 1510 without supports.

General Education Requirements Met
SUNY

JCC

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Describe the roles, responsibilities, and scope of practice of various health care professionals and their contributions to patient care.
2. Analyze health care systems, policies, and ethical frameworks that shape health care delivery and professional practice.
3. Apply principles of evidence-based practice, cultural competence, and interdisciplinary collaboration to improve patient outcomes.
4. Demonstrate effective professional communication and critical thinking skills in discussing health care challenges and ethical dilemmas.

Topics Covered:

Introduction to Health Care Professions

- Overview of key health care professions (OTA, PT, nursing, speech therapy, etc.) and their process for patient care.
- The role of interprofessional teams in patient care
- Career pathways and educational requirements in health care

Health Care Systems & Policies

- Structure of healthcare in the U.S. and globally
- Insurance, reimbursement, and health care accessibility
- Government regulations and professional licensing

Professional Roles & Ethical Responsibilities

- Scope of practice for different health care providers
- Ethical dilemmas in health care and decision-making frameworks
- Patient rights, confidentiality and professional boundaries

Interprofessional Collaboration & Communication

- Teamwork and coordination in health care settings
- Effective communication with patients, families, and health care teams
- Conflict resolution and professional conduct in health care

Evidence-Based Practice & Clinical Reasoning

- Introduction to research in health care
- Using data and evidence to guide patient care decisions
- Critical thinking and problem-solving in health care scenarios

Ethical & Legal Issues in Health Care

- Scope of practice and professional boundaries
- Understanding legal responsibilities and liability in health care
- Ethical dilemmas and decision-making models

Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
 - [Civility Statement](#)
 - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
 - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)

- [Accessibility Services](#)

Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.

- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)

- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
-------	--------	-----	--------	-----	--------	-----	-----

- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

Effective Date: Fall 2025