

Virginia Commonwealth University

UNIV 191 Principles of Success for Pre-Professional Health Students Course Syllabus Fall 2020

Section: UNIV-191-032
Instructor: Brian Cone (he/him/his)
Student Hours: Please contact via email to set up a time to meet
Email: coneb2@vcu.edu
Class Meeting Time: Monday 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.
Class Meeting Location: Canvas Conferences or Zoom



COURSE PURPOSE:

This 1-credit course is for first year students interested in pursuing a career in one of the eight professional programs: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, veterinary medicine. The overarching objective for this course is to help VCU students learn about and develop personal and professional competency skills as outlined by the Association of American Medical Colleges (<https://www.aamc.org/admissions/dataandresearch/477182/corecompetencies.html>) and other health professions organizations. Emphasis will be placed on ethical behavior, conscious communication, and the importance of community involvement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The Learning Outcomes for this course are:

- Understand the expectations of being a pre-professional health student at VCU
- Develop academic study skills and resources towards a STEM-H curriculum
- Demonstrate insight into professional behaviors that lead to success in the healthcare workplace
- Understand the components of a competitive application to professional school
- Recognize and identify ethical complexity within the healthcare field
- Improve skills to clearly and effectively communicate both verbally and in writing
- Develop a capacity for self-reflection and self-evaluation for the purpose of continual self-improvement*

*= This course will address some subjects that might be upsetting to students and might cause stress and/or anxiety. Students are encouraged to use student hours to discuss these difficult subjects if they are upsetting.

COURSE READINGS:

Assigned Readings posted on Canvas

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Mandatory class attendance and participation (awarded at professors discretion)
- Class assignments
- Final class cumulative project
- Expectation to take full responsibility for your academic learning experience

COURSE POLICIES:

- Missing lecture: Should a student miss 3 or more classes in the semester, they will fail the course.
- Extenuating circumstances: Should you become unable to attend classes due to a legitimate reason (severe illness, death in the family, accident, etc.), please talk with your professor about your VCU academic policy options.
- Disruptive behavior: Any behavior that is disruptive or distracting to fellow students will not be tolerated – you will be asked to leave and will not receive attendance credit for the day.
- Respect of self and others: Personal reflection and sharing of experiences will be expected in this class. Please be cognizant of your reactions and the potential difference you might have from your classmates and/or professor to respect their experiences.
- Attendance points: To receive attendance points, the student must be in class for the entire class period.
- Make up work: Is at the professor's discretion.

GRADING:

All assignments are due on the dates assigned. Late work will not be accepted. Class attendance is taken electronically. During class, to receive participation points, you must answer certain questions to receive credit. If you do not attend class, you cannot receive participation points.

The grading policies are as listed below:

1.	Class Attendance and Participation (14 weeks @ 10 pts)	140
2.	Weekly Assignments	260
3.	Final project	100
	Total	500 points

The grading scale for the orientation course is as follows:

A	(90% - 100%)	500 - 450 points
B	(80% - 89.99%)	449 - 400 points
C	(70% - 79.99%)	399 - 350 points
D	(60% - 69.99%)	349 - 300 points
F	(<60%)	Below 300 points

CLASS SCHEDULE: (class schedule may be changed at the discretion of the professor)

Topic	Week Presented	Deadlines
Introduction	Week 1 - Aug 17	
Oral Communication - Asynchronous	Week 2 – Aug 24	Weekly Assignment 1
Written Communication - Asynchronous	Week 3 – Aug 31	Weekly Assignment 2
	Week 4 – No Class	Weekly Assignment 3
Capacity for improvement - Goal setting - Asynchronous	Week 5 – Sep 14	Weekly Assignment 4
Ethical responsibility to self and others - student conduct & academic integrity	Week 6 – Sep 21	Weekly Assignment 5
Resilience and adaptability	Week 7 – Sep 28	Weekly Assignment 6
Teamwork	Week 8 – Oct 5	Weekly Assignment 7
Human Behavior	Week 9 – Oct 12	Weekly Assignment 8
Cultural competencies	Week 10 – Oct 19	Weekly Assignment 9
Service orientation	Week 11 – Oct 26	Weekly Assignment 10
Capacity for improvement - Self efficacy	Week 12– Nov 9	Weekly Assignment 11
Quantitative reasoning; scientific reasoning; and critical thinking	Week 13 – Nov 16	Weekly Assignment 12
Reliability and dependability	Week 14 – Nov 23	Weekly Assignment 13
Final Assignment Due	Week 15 – Nov 30	

The last day to withdrawal from classes is November 24, 2020.

Canvas:

This course will have a Canvas site for class lectures, updates, assignments, discussion boards and grades. Students should check the class website weekly by accessing Canvas through <http://www.my.vcu.edu> or <https://canvas.vcu.edu/>

Class assignments will be due and uploaded through Canvas. It is your responsibility to make sure that assignments are completed before due dates. Loss of internet access, computer issues, browser issues or other technology related problems may not be considered legitimate excuses for failure to complete assignments before due dates.

IMPORTANT DATES – FALL 2020:

You can view important dates for the semester in the [academic calendar](http://academiccalendar.vcu.edu/) - <http://academiccalendar.vcu.edu/>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Students should visit <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus> and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.