Department:

Health Sciences – Medical Coding

Course Description:

This course introduces basic legal and ethical issues for healthcare professionals, with emphasis on health information practice. The course will cover healthcare ethics, sources of law, the judicial process, healthcare practitioner liability, fraud, and abuse. Emphasis will be placed on patient record requirements which make the medical record a legal document, consent, confidentiality, special protections for patient records, detailed examination of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and electronic health information issues. This course will also cover the healthcare professional’s interaction with patients, law enforcement personnel, and government agencies.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the code of ethics.
2. Give a general overview of the legal process.
3. Identify and interpret the sources of law related to healthcare and health information management.
4. Explain patient rights, advocacy, and advance directives.
5. Define and explain the concepts of privacy, security, and HIPAA, including governing agencies and penalties, and explain how these concepts relate to actual situations.
6. Explain what constitutes an incident and how to complete an incident report.
7. Explain how the medical record is a legal document.
8. Describe proper documentation and explain the importance of the health record for various professionals, agencies, and patients in healthcare facilities.
9. Explain the role of the health information professional in court.
10. Analyze patient data and documentation for proper release of information to authorized users.
11. Explain the use and disclosure of health information related to regulatory agencies, statutory and regulatory law, and public health reporting requirements.
12. Achieve general course outcomes.
   a. Make reasonable judgments after gathering, analyzing, and evaluating information.
   b. Obtain data using technological and traditional processes.
   c. Communicate with various audiences and technologies.
   d. Apply interpersonal skill and knowledge to actual situations.
Course Content:

A. Introduction to Ethics
B. Introduction to Law and Different Sectors of the Law
C. Sources of Law
D. Government Organization
E. Administrative Departments and Agencies
F. HIPAA Including Governing Agencies
G. Ethical and Legal Issues for Healthcare Professionals
H. Patient Consent
I. Patient Abuse
J. Patient Rights and Responsibilities
K. Purpose and Function of the Patient Record
L. Health Care Regulatory Agencies
M. Payment Systems for Healthcare Services

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of discussion questions, graded assignments, comprehensive assignments, research paper, quizzes, and exams.

Instructional Materials:

Legal and Ethical Issues for Health Professionals, Pozgar, 3rd Ed., Jones and Bartlett, 2013.

ISBN: 978-1-58426-353-1

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.