

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
MS in Health Sciences
IDST 5900 Graduate Scholarly and Technical Writing

Course Description

The Masters of Science in Health Care Management (MSHM) Program is designed to develop managers and leaders in the health care environment. Effective writing is a core competency and an essential skill for health care managers and leaders. Therefore, this competency is heavily emphasized in all courses within the MSHM curriculum. Within the framework of writing well and communicating effectively, this course is designed to develop and enhance students' essential academic and scholarly writing skills. In this course, students are introduced to principles of academic inquiry, evidenced-based argumentation, and prewriting strategies to generate and clarify ideas. Through active participation in this course, learners are expected to improve their academic and scholarly writing by enhancing the form, style, content and organization of sentences, paragraphs, sections to ultimately craft clear, concise, and thorough final papers... To apply and demonstrate effective, persuasive writing skills, students enrolled in this course engage in planning projects, critical analysis of data, literature reviews, and writing compelling papers reflective of a variety of best practices. An array of web-based resources and exercises, as well as a text and supplemental resources, are used to help facilitate student learning of related concepts. Students will use these resources to prepare for assignments, exams, and a final paper.

Credits/Modes of Instruction

This three –credit course is web-based and will be delivered via our Moodle Web platform, and the course may be accessed through the following link: <http://moodle.rutgers.edu/>

Students are to use their originally assigned Rutgers-SHP log-on information to access Moodle. A brief introduction to Moodle for students can be found at the Moodle Welcome Page once you access the Moodle. In addition, more resources regarding the use of Moodle are available once you access the Moodle welcome page at Rutgers-SHP. This course runs for fifteen (15) weeks, with each week beginning on Tuesday and ending on the following Monday.

The mode of instruction is directed study. Directed study is an active learning method that emphasizes what the learner does, not the teacher. In this method, you engage the content via structured assignments and activities, i.e., you learn by doing. The instructor's role is to (1) design the assignments and activities to ensure active learning, (2) prepare you for and direct you in assignment completion, (3) provide you with feedback on your achievement and progress, and (4) promote collaboration among all students via structured discussion and presentations.

Prerequisites

Though there are no specific course prerequisites, this course is intended primarily for students who have matriculated within the Rutgers-SHP Master of Science in Health Science or Master of Science in Health Care Management programs. Graduate level non-matriculated students may register for this course only with advance approval by the course instructor, Program Director, or the Department Chairperson.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Goals

The overall goal for this course is to introduce graduate students to the fundamental principles of effective written communication and scholarly writing skills, including the application of tools and techniques for synthesizing and critiquing materials from professional publications and incorporating evidenced-based sources within the context of managing health care organizations.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

Explain basic concepts of writing and how they apply to the healthcare environment.

Identify field-specific writing conventions and evaluate the role of effective communication skills in healthcare management.

Collaborate with other health care professionals in evaluating peer writing and communication skills.

Conceptualize, identify, define, and propose an extended independent project proposal.

Customize the design and development process for a document project in accordance with professional standards, specifications, and style guides.

Access and evaluate a variety of databases and navigate systems with fluency and efficiency.

Present, compare and interpret research findings with clarity, authority and academic integrity.

Analyze and demonstrate fluency in the writing process: prewriting, planning, drafting, revising, editing, and preparing final papers.

Demonstrate competence in the varied elements of writing: thesis, stance, content, organization, sentences, diction, persuasive argumentation, and technical matters.

Synthesize and critique material from a variety of sources with an emphasis on scholarly, professional publications; incorporate evidenced-based sources; document sources properly.

Evaluate and demonstrate how writing contributes to their development as health professionals.