

**SYLLABUS**  
**LA&S 372 Preparing for Programs in Health Professions**

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**Instructor:**

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Meeting time:** Mondays & Wednesdays

**Office Hours:** Mondays: 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Course Description**

This course is designed for KU students who are planning to apply to a graduate-level health professional program including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.

The goal for this course is to provide students with information about the graduate application process and provide students an opportunity to explore and confirm their interest in the healthcare professions. Students will prepare documents for graduate school application, learn about the cost of a graduate degree in the healthcare field, research jobs and future potential careers in healthcare, participate in experiential learning activities, along with exploring a variety of other topics.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Compare your personal skills to the skills required of a health care professional in the field of your interest
- Gain exposure to a medical environment (e.g. hospital, clinic, pharmacy) and health care providers through job shadowing and informational interviews
- Explain the typical application processes and requirements graduate-level health profession programs
- Create an application plan including institutions of interest and preparation of application materials including application, personal statements, updated resume/CVs and essays
- Develop interviewing skills
- Gain an understanding of potential healthcare careers
- Explore various healthcare topics including job market trends, ethics, etc

**Course Expectations**

- This course is a **hybrid course** meaning coursework and discussions will be delivered both in the classroom and on-line. **It is a REQUIREMENT that you attend ALL in-person meetings and are ACTIVE on Blackboard.**
- You must have access to reliable internet, email, and a webcam throughout the semester to complete the coursework. If you do not feel you will have these resources, please reach out to discuss potential options.
- **All assignments need to be turned in by the assigned due dates.**
- Email will be the primary form of communication, so if your KU email account is not your main account, please make sure you are regularly checking it or have access to it.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>.

**The following is Article II, Section 6 of the Rules and Regulations of the University Senate, revised as of August 2006.**

2.6.1 Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; **knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work**; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; **plagiarizing of another's work**; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.

## Blackboard

**Course assignments, announcements, and grades will be posted in Blackboard.** All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. Your username and password are the same as those used for your KU exchange account. If you do not use a KU exchange account, go to the Blackboard login page for instructions on how to register your username and password. Also, if the University does not have a record of the e-mail account that you use, you should register your e-mail account on the Blackboard main page under "Personal Information." If you do not do this, e-mails sent to you will be returned to sender, and you will be deleted as a user of Blackboard. To access the site, go to <http://courseware.ku.edu/>.

**Response time:** Your instructor will attempt to respond to any emails from students received during normal business hours (M-F, 8a.m. – 5p.m.) within 48 hours; however, a 48-hour response may not always be possible. Emails received over the weekend may take longer.

## Course Grading

All assignments will be graded on critical thinking, spelling accuracy and grammar, as well as the other items mentioned in their respective descriptions in Blackboard. Late work **WILL NOT** be accepted. If you have a technological issue or other emergency, you need to contact your instructor **IMMEDIATELY**—issues relayed after the due date will not be considered. Also, be sure to CHECK YOUR GRADES REGULARLY to ensure assignments were received. If there is a discrepancy, please contact your instructor within 1 WEEK OF THE GRADE BEING POSTED IN BLACKBOARD. Final grades are not weighted and are based on total points.

Grades Scored Between	Will Equal
93 % and 100 %	A
90 % and Less Than 93%	A-
87 % and Less Than 90%	B+
83 % and Less Than 87%	B
80 % and Less Than 83%	B-
77 % and Less Than 80%	C+
73 % and Less Than 77%	C
70 % and Less Than 73%	C-
67 % and Less Than 70%	D+
63 % and Less Than 67%	D
60 % and Less Than 63%	D-
0 % and Less Than 60%	F

## Grammar and Punctuation

It is expected that your assignments will be written using proper grammar and punctuation, as the work for this class should reflect the professionalism you should exude in a professional workplace.

**All discussions, as well as other writing assignments will be graded on grammar and punctuation.** Most assignments will have their own rubric which includes grammar and punctuation points. Assignments that do not include a specific rubric will be graded on grammar and punctuation using the following:

### Grading scale for grammar and punctuation:

- Assignment is well-written, easy to read and understand, and has few, if any, grammar and punctuation errors: **0**
- Assignment is well-written, easy to read and understand, has some significant grammar and punctuation errors (i.e. misspelled words, capitalization errors, run-on sentences, fragments, contractions, etc.): **-1**
- Assignment doesn't flow as well as it could and is sometimes difficult to follow; significant grammar and punctuation errors exist (i.e. misspelled words, capitalization errors, run-on sentences, fragments, contractions, etc.): **-2**
- Assignment is not well-written, is not easy to read and understand, and has several significant grammar and punctuation errors ((i.e. misspelled words, capitalization errors, run-on sentences, fragments, contractions, etc.): **-3**

## Assignment Descriptions – Total Points Possible for Course – 300 Points

**About Me:** Create and share a brief voice thread introduction to the class including your name, year in school, what healthcare field you're interested in and what you hope to gain from this course – **Points Possible: 10**

**Clifton Strengths:** Complete Clifton Strengths Assessment online – **Points Possible: 5**

**Personal Statement:** You will draft a personal statement based on your healthcare graduate school interest. This will be a 4,500-word assignment– **Points Possible: 25**

**Resume:** Develop a resume that highlights your academic, professional and volunteer experiences. Additionally, you will work with your career coach to improve these materials – **Points Possible: 50**

**Target Schools Spreadsheet:** Create a list of graduate schools that you plan to apply to. You will research each of these institutions and collect information that will help you track potential places to apply – **Points Possible: 15**

**Financial Comparison:** Create a budget spreadsheet for attending your target schools. This will give you a better picture of the cost of graduate school. – **Points Possible: 15**

**Tailored Personal Statement:** Utilizing one of the schools from your target school spreadsheet you will draft a personal statement that is specific to that institution. This will be something that you can utilize with your graduate school application material – **Points Possible: 25**

**Sample Letter of Recommendation Email:** Craft an email asking a faculty member to write a letter of recommendation – **Points Possible: 15**

**Mock Interview:** Schedule a time to meet with your and complete a practice interview. This interview will help with preparing for graduate school interviews. – **Points Possible: 30**

**Innovation VoiceThread:** Research your healthcare area of interest (for example, medicine or dentistry) and find an article that highlights something innovative taking place within the industry. This can be a new technology that is being used by healthcare providers, a new policy that is set to change your field of interest or something that will disrupt the future of your industry. – **Points Possible: 15**

**Ethics Case Study:** Select one of the ethics case studies and develop a 5-minute presentation discussing how you would handle the case – **Points Possible: 15**

**Job Shadow:** Over the course of the semester you should spend 8 hours shadowing someone in your professional field and write a 3-4-page reflection over this experience. The goal of this assignment is to provide you with a first-hand look at what it is like to work in your field, so you should seek to find someone who is doing a job that you hope or aspire to be – **Points Possible: 30**

**Final Project:** Pick one current issue or event within your specific healthcare field and write an 8-10-page argumentative paper. This is a topic that you will follow all semester and create an analysis giving an overview of the topic, introduction to your argument, discussion over the significance of your topic and practical implications. Additionally, you will create a presentation discussing your findings and present them to the class – this presentation should be interactive and visual in nature – **Points Possible: 50**

**Schedule of assignments and due dates for course (Late work will NOT be accepted!)**

**\*Days that we will meet in class**

Topic	Homework Assigned	Homework Due
<b>Week 1</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> August 26* Exploring the Medical Field	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About Me</li> <li>Clifton Strengths</li> </ul> <b>Reading:</b> <a href="#">Thompson</a> , 2018	
<b>Wednesday:</b> August 28 Characteristics of a Health Care Professional	<b>Reading:</b> Kitsis, E.A. & Fleishman, 2019 Greiner & Knebel (eds.), 2003 HIPPA Training	About Me Clifton Strengths
<b>Week 2</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> September 2	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Wednesday:</b> September 4* Are you a competitive applicant?		
<b>Week 3</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> September 9 Are you a competitive applicant?	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review resume modules on JayHawk Ready</li> <li>Draft a resume</li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesday:</b> September 11* Resume or CV	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume</li> <li>Career coach appointment for resume review</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 4</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> September 16* Introduction to Personal Statements	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft of personal Statement</li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesday:</b> September 18 Researching Professional Schools	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target school spreadsheet</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 5</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> September 23* Personal Statement	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise personal statement</li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesday:</b> September 25 Review of Materials	Office hours for resume review or personal statement review	Personal Statement due
<b>Week 6</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> September 30* Letters of Recommendation	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify 3-5 professional reference at least two need to be science or math faculty members who will write you a good letter and craft a sample letter of recommendation email</li> <li>Schedule a time to meet with your career coach to review your tailored personal statement</li> </ul>	Final Resume due

<b>Wednesday:</b> October 2* Interviewing	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock interview with Career Coach</li> <li>• Create a tailored personal statement for one of the institutions on your target list</li> </ul>	Target school spreadsheet
<b>Week 7</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> October 7* Panel Discussion with Current Students in Health Profession		
<b>Wednesday:</b> October 9 Financing Professional School	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial comparison assignment</li> </ul> <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Taking the Sting out of Medical School Debt</i></li> <li>• <i>An Exploration of the Recent Decline in the Percentage of U.S. Medical School Graduates With Education Debt</i></li> </ul>	Sample Letter of Recommendation Email
<b>Week 8</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> October 14 <b>Fall Break – No Class</b>	<b>No class</b> - Make sure you read <i>When Breath Becomes Fresh Air</i>	
<b>Wednesday:</b> October 16* Leveraging KU's Mentoring Network LinkedIn	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job Shadowing Assignment and Reflection</li> </ul> <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i></li> </ul>	Financial Comparison Due
<b>Week 9</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> October 21* Researching the job market	<b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesday:</b> October 23 Developing an alternative plan	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Alternate Plan</li> <li>• Come prepared to discuss <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 10</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> October 28* When Breath Becomes Air Discussion		Tailored Personal Statement
<b>Wednesday:</b> October 30 Innovations in Healthcare	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation Voice Thread</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 11</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> November 4* Ethics in Healthcare	<b>Readings:</b> Select <b>one</b> of the following readings based on your interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Ethics for Pharmacists</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">AMA Principles of Medical Ethics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Conduct</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Ethics American Optometric Association</a></li> </ul>	Mock Interview Due
<b>Wednesday:</b> November 6 Ethics in Healthcare	<b>Assignment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Study</li> </ul>	Innovation Voice Thread Response
<b>Week 12</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> November 1	Work on Case Study	
<b>Wednesday:</b> November 13*	Case Study Presentations	
<b>Week 13</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> November 18	No Class – Thanksgiving	

<b>Wednesday:</b> November 20	No Class – Thanksgiving	
<b>Week 14</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> November 25* Healthcare and Society	In Class – Watch <i>The Waiting Room</i> <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The American Health-Care System Increases Income Inequality</i></li> <li>• <i>America is a world leader in health inequality</i></li> <li>• <i>The United States Leads Other Nations in Differences by Income in Perceptions of Health and Healthcare</i></li> </ul>	Alternative Plan Due
<b>Wednesday:</b> November 27 Healthcare and Society	Respond to VoiceThread discussion questions	
<b>Week 15</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> December 2* Panel from Healthcare Professionals		Job Shadow Assignment due
<b>Wednesday:</b> December 4	Work on Final Presentation	
<b>Week 16</b>		
<b>Monday:</b> December 9*	Final Presentations	
<b>Wednesday:</b> December 11*	Final Presentations	
<b>Finals Week</b>	No Class Meeting	