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JUMP-START YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS EDUCATION
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR PHYSICIAN SHADOWING

The Stony Brook University Online Course, BCP 405, ‘Pharmacology to Pharmacy’

http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/courses/bcp/
(Scroll down to ‘BCP 405’)

INTRODUCTION: This course, offered exclusively online, is designed for undergraduates interested in health care (either basic biomedical science-oriented or clinical). After description and demonstration of common medical procedures, the class introduces many aspects of clinical pharmacology with presentations of clinical vignettes and case discussions, but is geared toward non-clinicians. The interprofessional course faculty includes physicians, scientists, an educator, an advanced practice nurse, and a hospital pharmacist. Students have the opportunity to ask questions directly through online chats.

The course is offered throughout the year in semester format (twice in the summer, once each in the fall, winter and spring). The course is valued at 3 credits, can only be taken for credit once, counts toward the SUNY Stony Brook bachelor’s degree and satisfies specific University graduation requirements to “Prepare for Life-long Learning, Evaluate and Synthesize Researched Information (ESI).”

GRADING/COURSE FORMAT: Grades are based on student performance on fact-based quizzes offered frequently (7-15 times) throughout the course and on an equal number of formal online discussions with expert Stony Brook faculty who have broad experience as physicians, biomedical scientists, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists and educators. Each quiz is 5-10 questions in length, and like all other aspects of the course, is administered online and in an ‘open-book’ format. Graded discussions are formal, involving questions posed by the faculty. After completing each session, students are guided to apply this newfound knowledge within clinical scenarios. Interactions with course faculty not only provide opportunities to learn and apply this material but also to network with professionals working in an academic medical center.

Topics covered include 1) hospital culture and etiquette; 2) disease manifestation/patient-care simulation, both with high-tech mannequins and live models; 3) procedure demonstrations including intravenous line placement, lumbar puncture (spinal tap), nasogastric (feeding) tube placement, and endotracheal intubation and airway management; 4) drug development and regulatory approval; 5) research and biomedical ethics; 6) pharmacy practice, both in the hospital and in the community; 7) drugs in society as well as in the lay press; and 8) modern pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacogenomics.

Students completing this course have been uniformly enthusiastic. Representative responses to “What was valuable about this course?” include: 1) “very informative, prepares you for the health sciences;” 2) “Course transcriptions were invaluable. It was easy to study from both the videos and the written material. Professors were quick to respond via email;” 3) “I found the course very interesting. It explained things in an easy and clear way. I was able to learn the material easily while working and commuting full time;” and 4) “This course featured many intriguing and exhilarating topics. Aspiring to intern and with increasing interest to represent a pharmaceutical company as an attorney in the future, I acquired an extensive amount of knowledge through the teachings of the course.”

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