

Health science graduates must be prepared to interact with interprofessional teams, interpret medication-related information, and support patient education as medication use continues to expand in clinical, community, and population-health settings. Competency in this area enhances students' clinical literacy, improves their readiness for advanced training and education, and aligns with employer expectations for entry-level healthcare workers. Learners who can navigate medication terminology and understand basic drug classifications, mechanisms, and safety considerations are better prepared to support safe, effective, and evidence-based healthcare across diverse practice environments.

- B. This course meets a program requirement for the Medical Assistant Certificate.
- C. There is no lab component.
- D. This course generally transfers, dependent on the transfer institution, as a program requirement or elective in health sciences.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the Medical Assistant Certificate and A.S. Degree in Health Science.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to pharmacology
- B. The drug cycle
- C. Drug effects
- D. Drug forms and Routes
- E. Drug testing and Marketing
- F. Musculoskeletal drugs
- G. Analgesic drugs
- H. Psychiatric drugs
- I. Anti-infective drugs
- J. Antifungal drugs
- K. Chemotherapy drugs
- L. Cardiovascular drugs
- M. Anticoagulant/Thrombolytic drugs
- N. Pulmonary drugs
- O. Gastrointestinal drugs
- P. Endocrine drugs
- Q. Antidiabetic drugs
- R. Obstetric/Gynecologic drugs
- S. Neurological drugs

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the components of the drug cycle, absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion. (GE-1)
2. Identify medications within commonly prescribed drug/pharmaceutical categories. (GE-1)
3. Describe the therapeutic action of commonly prescribed drugs within a given category. (GE-1)
4. Identify the diseases a generic or proprietary prescribed drug is used to treat. (GE-1)
5. Identify several generic and proprietary drugs used to treat a specific disease. (GE-1)
6. Recognize factors that contribute to medication errors, such as the spelling and packaging of generic and brand name drugs. (GE-1, 3)
7. Demonstrate research techniques for obtaining drug information from drug references and other sources. (GE-1, 3, IL)
8. Analyze healthcare records and correlate symptoms, diagnoses, and tests performed with drugs administered. (GE-1, 3)

B. Assessment Instruments

- a. online discussion
- b. content papers
- c. Project

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Online Discussion
- B. Content Papers
- C. Final Project

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. Online Course Materials
- B. Internet/Database Research

VIII. Texts and Materials

A. Open Educational Resources are used for this course.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. RVCC Library
- B. Computer with Internet Access
- C. Medical Dictionary

X. Check One: Honors Course N/A