

HLTH1600 | Basic Pharmacology

General Course Syllabus | Fall 2026

Course Information

Course Description: This course introduces basic principles and concepts of pharmacology, including dosage calculations, drug classifications and uses, sources of drugs, storage and handling of medications, prescribing and dispensing drugs, drug abuse and the role of the healthcare provider concerning medications. The course includes record keeping, documentation and legal concerns. (2 contact hours)

Prerequisites: NONE

Course Outcomes:

The course will

1. Acquaint students with the major classifications of drugs and medications.
2. Provide the knowledge to recognize the importance of the responsibility of administering medications.
3. Develop the ability to keep accurate records and documentation.
4. Develop an understanding of the guidelines of federal regulations.

Textbook and Online Learning Platform

Textbook & Online Platform (McGraw Hill Connect)

Required:

Administering Medications, 9th ed. (Gauwitz) — **Connect Online Access** (Inclusive/First Day Access)

Methods of Evaluation

Student performance will be assessed by:

- Quizzes and examinations
- Homework, workbook, and application-based assignments
- Discussion board participation (as applicable)
- Case studies and clinical scenario analysis
- Written assignments and/or projects or presentations (individual or group)
- In-class activities and participation

Specific grading breakdowns and policies will be outlined in individual instructor syllabi.

General Course Schedule (Overview)

Module 1: Orientation to Medications

Understanding major drug classifications; recognizing the responsibilities associated with medication administration; understanding basic federal guidelines related to medications

Module 2: Principles for Drug Action

Understanding major drug classifications and how medications affect the body; recognizing safe medication practices

Module 3: Measurement and Dosage Calculations

Recognizing the responsibility of accurate medication administration; developing accuracy in medication-related calculations and documentation

Module 4: Administering Parenteral Medications

Recognizing responsibilities in medication administration; demonstrating accurate documentation practices; understanding regulatory and safety guidelines

Module 5: Medication Therapy

Understanding drug classifications and therapeutic uses; recognizing responsibilities in medication administration; developing accurate documentation practices

Module 6: Vitamins, Minerals, Herbs; Antibiotics, Antifungals, Antivirals

Understanding classifications of medications and supplements; recognizing safe medication practices

Module 7: Drugs for Body Systems – Eye & Ear; Skin; Cardiovascular

Understanding drug classifications related to body systems; recognizing safe medication administration practices

Module 8: Drugs for Body Systems – Respiratory; Gastrointestinal; Urinary

Understanding drug classifications related to body systems; recognizing safe medication administration practices

Module 9: Drugs for Body Systems – Reproductive; Endocrine; Musculoskeletal

Understanding drug classifications related to body systems; recognizing safe medication administration practices

Module 10: Drugs for Body Systems – Nervous and Sensory

Understanding drug classifications related to body systems; recognizing safe medication administration practices

Module 11: Psychotropic and Antineoplastic Drugs

Understanding specialized drug classifications; recognizing responsibilities in medication administration; understanding regulatory considerations

Module 12: Drugs for Pediatrics

Recognizing responsibilities in medication administration for special populations; developing accuracy in documentation; understanding safety and regulatory considerations

Module 13: Drugs for the Older Adult

Recognizing responsibilities in medication administration for special populations; developing accuracy in documentation; understanding safety and regulatory considerations