

HIPAA Privacy and Security

HLTH7504

Course Description

As health information is digitized and stored in electronic records, this transformation poses novel challenges for the protection of our personal health information. This course will focus on the federal law that is designed to protect the privacy and security of health information - the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The course will cover among other topics: the entities and information to which HIPAA applies; when consent is required for use and disclosure of health information; the types of health information requiring heightened protection; use of health information for research and marketing; security measures required to protect digitized health information; individuals' right to access their health information; business association agreements; and the enforcement and compliance with HIPAA's requirements.

Readings

All readings for this course are available in a [custom-made textbook, which is available for purchase through XanEdu](#).

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic
1	The Regulatory Framework; Who Does HIPAA Regulate?
2	What Information is Covered Under HIPAA? The Privacy Rule: Consent Requirements (Part 1)
3	The Privacy Rule: Consent Requirements (Part 2)
4	The Privacy Rule: Consent Requirements (Part 3)
5	The Privacy Rule: Individual Rights
6	The Security Rule
7	Business Associates
8	Enforcement and Breach Notification

Course Outcomes

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

- CO 1. Identify which entities are regulated under HIPAA and what information HIPAA applies to.
- CO 2. Explain when consent is required under the Privacy Rule and decide whether a given situation requires oral agreement or written authorization.
- CO 3. Articulate the individual rights required under the Privacy Rule.
- CO 4. Explain the administrative, physical and technical safeguards required under Security Rule.
- CO 5. Evaluate whether a given authorization, privacy policy or business associate agreement complies with HIPAA.
- CO 6. Articulate the potential enforcement methods and outcomes and the requirements for breach notification.
- CO 7. Critique the regulatory choices made under HIPAA.
- CO 8. Recognize situations in which professional advice is necessary and communicate effectively with professional legal counsel and other employees.

Overview of Course Activities

Activity #1: Tutorial Questions

The Tutorial Questions are weekly assignments designed to ensure that you have an accurate understanding of the key points in the readings. Answers to these questions can be any length. Your goal should be to accurately state the relevant points of law as concisely as possible. Your professor will provide feedback and guidance on your responses. **Answers are due by 11:59PM on Wednesday.**

Tutorial Questions for week 1 are available with the [first week's assignments](#). Tutorial Questions for the remaining weeks of the course are available on the Blackboard course site.

Activity #2: Discussion Questions

A "threaded discussion" is a discussion forum that allows students to respond to questions posted by the professor (original responses), which can then be read by other users who add their own comments in response (secondary postings). Unlike chat rooms and other "real-time" interaction forums, threaded discussions do not require different users to be logged on at the same time.

Discussion questions are assigned each week. **Original responses to these questions must be posted by Thursday at 11:59PM.** Original responses must be at least **250 words** and must incorporate concepts from the lectures and assigned readings.

Secondary Responses/Postings: Each student must post **two or more** secondary responses to other students' postings **for each discussion question**. Secondary responses are due by **11:59PM on the Monday following the week in which the questions were assigned**. They must be a minimum of **150 words** and, like original responses, should incorporate concepts from the lectures and assigned readings. Students are encouraged to embark on interactive discussions that go beyond the minimum number of secondary postings.

Although the discussion board is expected to be student-driven, professors will be participating in the discussions as well.

Discussion Questions for week 1 are available with the [first week's assignments](#). Discussion Questions for the remaining weeks of the course are available on the Blackboard course site.

Activity #3 – What Is Protected Health Information?

This activity is due by Saturday of Week 2. Look for activity details later in the syllabus.

Activity #4 – Authorization Forms

This activity is due by Saturday of Week 4. Look for activity details later in the syllabus.

Activity #5 – Privacy Policies

This activity is due by Saturday of Week 6. Look for activity details later in the syllabus.

Activity #6 – Business Associate Agreements

This activity is due by Saturday of Week 8. Look for activity details later in the syllabus.

Grading

ACTIVITIES	% OF FINAL GRADE
Activity #1: Tutorial Questions	25%
Activity #2: Discussion Questions	25%
Activity #3: What is Protected Health Information?	12.5%
Activity #4: Authorization Forms	12.5%
Activity #5: Privacy Policies	12.5%
Activity #6: Business Associate Agreements	12.5%

Responses to the Tutorial Questions and Discussion Questions will be graded each week in which they are assigned. At the end of the course, the lowest grade you receive for the Tutorial Questions and for the Discussion Questions will be dropped and will not be counted towards your final grade for the course. The purpose of this policy is to accommodate unanticipated professional or personal scheduling conflicts that may arise during the course.

IMPORTANT: You are required to post a *minimum* of one 250-word main post plus two 150-word secondary posts to each weekly discussion thread/topic. Your weekly discussion board grade will be based upon the quantity and overall quality of your postings.

Late Activities: For purposes of grading, activities and assignments that are submitted late will be treated as not having been submitted at all. The professor may make exceptions to this policy for true emergencies, such as serious illness. Requests for exceptions should be made in advance of the deadline, if possible. The professor's decision to grant or deny a request for an exception is final and unreviewable.

The following grade scale will be used to calculate final grades. The following is an explanation of how points equate to grades, based on a 4.33-point scale:

Grade	Quantitative	Qualitative	Definition
A+	4.33	Excellent	Superior understanding of the content and method of the course, extraordinary ability to recognize relationships between concepts, initiative in doing work in which quality consistently surpasses that required.
A	4.00		
A-	3.67		
B+	3.33	Good	Good understanding of the content and method of the course, demonstrated ability to recognize relationships between concepts, substantial achievement of course objectives and fulfillment of course requirements.
B	3.00		
B-	2.67	Fair	Rudimentary understanding of the content and method of the course, limited recognition of relationships between concepts, basic but incomplete achievement of course objectives and requirements.
C+	2.33		
C	2.00		
C-	1.67	Unsatisfactory	Little understanding of the content and method of the course, inability to demonstrate minimum recognition of relationships between concepts, unsatisfactory achievement of course objectives and requirements.
D+	1.33		
D	1.00		
F	0.00	Failure	Lack of understanding of the content and method of the course, failure to achieve objectives and/or complete requirements of the course.

Grades are based strictly on individual performance, not on any external factors (e.g., tuition reimbursement policies at your place of employment). Any questions about grades must be made in writing.