BIOLOGY 397: Medical Career Exploration

Course Information:
Title: Medical Career Exploration Credits: 1
Prerequisites: ENGL 111X; ENGL 211X; Permission of Instructor
Location and Meeting Time: TBA, plus interaction with instructor as required
Course readings and materials: Supplementary materials will be determined/provided by instructor and student

Faculty Instructor:
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Co-Instructor
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Course Description:
This is an undergraduate (300-level) course designed to expose the student to careers in surgery. Through observing surgeries, discussing them with members of the surgical team and with instructors, the student will enhance her knowledge of what it means to work in the medical field as a surgeon, nurse, anesthesiologist, and other supporting staff. 1 credit (0+0+3)

Course Goals:
There are three primary goals for this program of individual study:
1. Establish understanding of the surgery process starting from admission of a patient to post-op.
2. Develop a basic understanding of surgeries performed including why and how surgeries were performed.
3. Develop a basic understanding of how interactions between various medical professionals result in a successful surgery.
**Student Learning Outcomes:**
After completion of this course, the student will:
- Have a greater depth of knowledge of various surgical procedures and potential complications.
- Be able to summarize and explain to others the reasons for surgeries performed and provide a basic overview of what is involved in various surgeries.
- Understand the various roles involved in pre-operation, surgery, and post-operation such as doctors, nurses, anesthesiologists, etc.

**Instructional Methods:**
The student will spend at least 3 hours each week observing surgeries and discussing surgeries with physicians and other members of the surgical team. The student will be responsible for keeping a journal of what she has observed. She will meet at least every other week to discuss what she has experienced with her instructors, and she will provide them with written summaries of those experiences. A final reflective report is required at the end the semester.

**Course Readings/Materials**
To complete this program of individual study, student will occasionally be assigned various articles relating to surgical practices such as from peer reviewed journals or reliable media sources.

**Course Calendar:**

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**Course Policies:**
Student will meet with instructor or co-instructor on a regular basis (at least every other week) to discuss experiences and review written papers. Meeting times will be arranged by appointment and availability of instructors and student. Assignments will be turned in by 11:59 PM following the course calendar. At instructor's discretion, late work may be allowed without penalty due to circumstances beyond student's control. If illness, other appointments, emergencies, or surgical facility issues require that the student miss a shadowing experience, the student will let the instructors know as soon as possible.

Academic honesty, personal integrity, and excellent work ethic are expected throughout the semester. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If the student submits work that plagiarizes and does not properly attribute another person's work, the student will receive a grade of 0 on that assignment. If this happens a second time, the student will receive a grade of F in the course. Please review the UAF student code of Conduct.

**Evaluation and Grading Policies:**
The degree to which the learning objectives are met will be evaluated by the instructors who will evaluate the student's quality and depth of writing in response to observations of various surgeries. The student will be required to meet the following due dates for successful completion of the course:

- Assignments (6) emailed to instructors every other week to summarize surgical experience gained from the shadowing opportunity; minimum length of assignment is 1 page, double spaced and contributes 70% of final grade.
- Final report reflecting on surgical experience throughout the semester and including student's response to the experience overall; minimum length of final report is 2 pages, double spaced and contributes 20% of final grade.
- Availability and meeting with instructors throughout the semester; contributes 10% of final grade.

Every activity proposed in this program of individual study is a practical and realistic element in the development of exposing student to medical careers possible.

The student will receive a letter grade in this course, based on assignments listed above. A traditional grading scale will be used (A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = < 59).

**Support Services:**
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If you require more assistance than can be provided by the instructors, you may want to contact Student Support Services (http://www.uaf.edu/ssp/), the writing center (http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/), or the BLaST Program for assistance.

**Disability Services**
All students, including those with disabilities, are welcome in this course, and we are committed to providing equal access to this course for all students. If you have a disability (including learning disabilities) please inform us during the first week of class so that we can accommodate your specific needs. If you have not already done so, you will also need to contact UAF's Office of Disabilities Services at 474-5655 or uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate fully in the course and to complete assignments and exams to the best of their ability. If accommodations are needed to enable you to do so, we will gladly work with you to provide them.

Title IX disclaimer
University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you report to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident.

Your choices for reporting include:
1. You may access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043;
2. You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-6600;
3. You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.