

DATE: April 1, 2016

TO: Randall Hannum, Chair of the College Council Curriculum Committee

FROM: Curriculum Subcommittee  
Peter Parides (Chair) & Ashwin Satyanarayana

RE: Final Report for Proposal 15-16: COM 2403 - Health Communication

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**COURSE NUMBER:** COM 2403  
**COURSE TITLE:** Health Communication  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 3 Credits; 3 Hours  
**PRE-REQUISITES:** COM 1330 - Public Speaking

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The study and practice of communication as it relates to health professionals and patient outcomes. Topics include provider-patient interaction, team communication, and the diffusion of health information through public health campaigns. Students learn the basics of clear, purposeful and compassionate communication across multiple channels, to reduce errors and provide better health care delivery.

**Rationale:**

Miscommunication among providers is one of the largest causes of medical errors. Communication skills are most sought after by employers, but the college currently does not offer a course in Health Communication that is available to students who are not Nursing majors. This course is designed to provide a foundation in communication skills for health professionals. It would serve the needs of professional programs in health, including the proposed AS in Allied Health. In addition, this course will be an important part of the Humanities Department's plan to develop a Communication major.

**Strengths:**

As a course that would be readily available to students currently in health-related programs or to students who contemplate entering a health-related program, COM 2403 promises to serve the needs and interest of a broad spectrum of students in baccalaureate and associate degree programs, particularly those in the School of Professional Studies. Margaret Rafferty, chair of the Nursing Department, has endorsed this proposal based on her belief that students preparing to enter the Nursing program would benefit from taking this course. Dean David Smith has endorsed this proposal as a foundational course for a prospective Allied Health Associates Degree program.

**Weaknesses:**

None

**Issues and Concerns Discussed and Resolved:**

The subcommittee offered several suggestions for improvement to the proposer. All suggestions were accepted and made. These are reflected in the current proposal.

**Subcommittee Activities:**

In addition to communicating its suggestions for improvement, the subcommittee met with proposer, Dr. David Lee; Dr. Ann Delikan, chair of the Humanities Department; Provost Bonne August; Associate Provost Pamela Brown; Dean Justin Vazquez-Poritz; and Kim Cardascia. Suggestions for modification were made at this meeting. These suggestions are reflected in the final version of the proposal.