

<b>Course Description</b>	<p>This M4 Elective offers students a two-week course which explores the relationship between doctors and lawyers and the many ways in which the two professions interact. Although the relationship between doctors and lawyers is often characterized as contentious or worse, doctors and lawyers collaborate on an almost daily basis regarding a variety of issues, many of which pose significant ethical issues for doctors as they seek to fulfill their ethical obligations to their patients. Questions to be considered in the course include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to handle conversations with lawyers - disclosing or withholding information, determining your ethical responsibilities to cooperate or refuse, and deciding the extent of your participation.</li><li>• How to respond to contact from lawyers - with whom is such information shared, how much information is shared, the effect of the physician-patient relationship on disclosure.</li><li>• How to discuss capacity issues - making capacity determinations across the medical and legal disciplines, discussing capacity with lawyers, determining the effect of your patient's capacity upon your participation and cooperation.</li><li>• How to navigate the guardianship/conservatorship/civil commitment process with lawyers - how capacity issues affect your conversations with lawyers, deciding how or if to advocate in proceedings to determine your patient's civil rights, the effect of guardianship/conservatorship/civil commitment on continuing patient care and advocacy.</li><li>• How (or if) to discuss patient treatment with lawyers.</li><li>• How to help lawyers advocate for your patients.</li><li>• How to address when the representation of a lawyer affects patient care.</li><li>• Exploring the conventional wisdom behind the relationship between doctors and lawyers - Valid? Invalid?</li></ul>
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe and discuss the various contexts in which lawyers and doctors interact and how the purposes of that interaction affect the ethical obligations of each</li><li>• Identify and understand the relative roles of doctors and lawyers in determining and addressing the capacity of patients to make their own decisions, direct their own treatment and participate in legal proceedings.</li><li>• Describe and discuss how lawyers and doctors may collaborate in an interdisciplinary setting to best serve the holistic needs of patients</li></ul>



<b>Course Activities</b>	The course will be taught through a combination of directing readings, short lectures and discussions. The primary method of instruction will be through the assignment in advance of readings to be discussed followed by a facilitated discussion of those readings in a round table fashion. These discussions will be introduced by a short lecture each week on the topic – no more than 10-15 minutes in duration. Students will participate in weekly discussion board posts and complete research for, and draft, a reflective paper on a topic of their choice. Feedback will be provided through the review of reflective posts and class participation, as well as the review of the reflective paper at the conclusion of the course.
<b>Course Schedule Requirements</b>	No on-call requirement. Student is present during usual clinical hours (8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays as determined by the ECU calendar). The course is taught in 5 longitudinal 90 minute sessions, once per month during 5 months of the academic year.

<b>Duration</b>	2 Weeks	<b>Location</b>	Brody School of Medicine
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<b>Designation</b>	Elective, Non-Clinical	<b>Revised</b>	10.07.2019
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