



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Program Curriculum

Program:

Medical Journalism

Relevant Department:

Medical Journalism

Degree:

M.Sc.

Ph.D.

Program Brief Description (Introduction):

Medical Journalism is a combination of medicine as a science and journalism as an art. This is a unique and novel area of study by which the graduates will be able to design, implement, analyze, write, edit, and manage research and articles in various fields of medicine and para medicine. The aim of this course is to train students to be able to work at medical journals as editors or at medical research centers as research and publishing consultants. It has been designed to bridge the gap between researchers and consumers of medical sciences by enhancing the reporting quality of scientific achievements. Medical Journalism is a multidisciplinary field aiming to familiarize students with key concepts related to the reporting and publishing of medical science productions such as copyright laws, ethics in publishing, scientific and technical editing, principles of scientific writing, etc.

The course has been established for the first time in the region in Shiraz University of Medical Sciences since 2009 for Iranian applicants. From the academic year 2017, it will be presented for international students as well.

Definition of the Program:

This is a unique and novel area of study by which the graduates will be able to design, implement, analyze, write, edit, and manage research and articles in various fields of medicine and para medicine. The aim of this course is to train students to be able to work at medical journals as editors or at medical research centers as research and publishing consultants. It has been designed to bridge the gap between researchers and consumers of medical sciences by enhancing the reporting quality of scientific achievements. In recent years, the methods of reporting scientific findings have developed greatly alongside developments in medical science and journalism technologies. Medical Journalism is a multidisciplinary field aiming to familiarize students with key concepts related to designing, implementing, reporting and publishing of medical science productions such as copyright laws, ethics in publishing, scientific and technical editing, principles of scientific writing, etc. After completing this course, students are expected to use their expertise to enhance the quality of reporting and publication of science in all paramedical and medical disciplines. They will be able to write, edit, and revise medical articles, manage editorial responsibilities in medical journal offices, plan, design, and evaluate research related to medical journalism, and methodologically criticize medical research. Students who wish to apply should have sufficient skills and knowledge in English language, computer driving skills, and management capabilities. They would later be able to work in journal offices, vice-chancellorships of research, research centers, and media. Students will pass 32 academic credits (24 core and 4 non-core credits plus 4 credits for their thesis). These credits will cover all aspects of medical journalism such as theory of medical journalism (including lectures on terminology, how to write, articles



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Program Curriculum

triage or screening at journal offices, peer review, critical appraisal, scientometry, and history of medical journals), copy editing, online production, magazine production, epidemiology, biostatistics, research methodology, search strategy in medical databases, modern English for medical writing, media law, publication ethics (including authorship criteria, conflict of interest, copyright issues, data fabrication, data falsification, redundant publication, salami publication, image manipulation, etc), journalism skills, news and feature writing, etc.

Duration of the Program:

Two years

Admission Requirements:

Students willing to apply should have one of the following degrees:

- M.Sc. or B.Sc. degree in medical sciences
- M.B.B.S/MD or PhD in medical sciences
- B.A, MA, or PhD in English language and Literature, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, and English Translation, or Communicational Sciences (with a main focus on Journalism and communication)

Students willing to apply should also provide proof of their English proficiency by presenting one of the following up-to-date certificates: IELTS: minimum band score of 6, TOEFL (or its equivalent in TOEFL) IBT (minimum 72), or TOEFL PBT (minimum 533).

Applicants who are natives of English speaking countries or those whose language of instruction in their previous degrees has been English are exempted from providing a certificate of English proficiency.

Expected Competencies at the End of the Program:

After completing this course, students are expected to

- use their expertise to enhance the quality of reporting and publication of science in all paramedical and medical disciplines
- Be able to write, edit, and revise medical articles, manage editorial responsibilities in medical journal offices
- Plan, design, and evaluate research related to medical journalism, and methodologically
- Criticize medical research
- Be able to work in journal offices, vice-chancelleries of research, research centers, and media

Student Assessment:

- Formative
- Summative
- Comprehensive exam
- Written, verbal, computer- and logbook based assessment tests
- Portfolio evaluation including test results, published articles, encouragements and notifications, work experience certificates, log books, etc. Students will be continuously assessed during the semester as well as at the end of each semester



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Program Curriculum

The Overall Structure of the Course:

Students will pass 32 credits as follow:

- 24 core credits
- 4 non-core credits
- 4 credits for thesis

Table of the Courses:

Table 1: **Compensatory courses**

Course Code	Course Title	Number of Credits			Hours			Pre-requisites or Concurrent Courses
		Theoretical	Practical	Total	Theoretical	Practical	Total	
01	General English (Advance)	1.5	0.5	2	26	17	43	-
02	English for Medical Purposes	1.5	0.5	2	26	17	43	General English (Advance-Code 01)
03	Principles of English writing	2	-	2	34	-	34	-
04	Principles of English translation	1	-	1	17	-	17	English for Medical Purposes (Code 02)
05	Medical terminology	2	-	2	34	-	34	English for Medical Purposes (Code 02)
06	Medical information systems*	0.5	0.5	1	9	17	26	-
07	Principle of academic Persian writing (elementary)	2	-	2	34	-	34	-
08	Epidemiology	2	-	2	34	-	34	-
09	Research Methods and search strategy in databases	1.5	0.5	2	26	17	43	-
10	Biostatistics	1.5	0.5	2	26	17	43	-
Total					18			

*Taking this course is mandatory for students who have not previously passed the course



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Program Curriculum

Course Code	Course Title	Number of Credits			Hours			Pre-requisites or Concurrent Courses
		Theoretical	Practical	Total	Theoretical	Practical	Total	
11	English for Medical Journalism	1	1	2	17	34	51	-
12	Publication and Research Ethics	1	1	2	17	34	51	-
13	Principle of academic Persian writing (Advance)	1	1	2	17	34	51	-
14	Principles and techniques of Journalism	1	1	2	17	34	51	-
15	Magazine production	1	1	2	17	34	51	Medical news and feature writing (code 16)
16	Medical news and feature writing	1	1	2	17	34	51	English for Medical Purposes (Code 2)
17	Scientific and online editing	1	3	4	17	102	119	-
18	Medical journalism theory	2	1	3	34	34	68	-
19	Publication and mass communication law	1	0	1	17	-	17	-
20	Work placement 1	-	1	1	-	51	51	-
21	Work placement 2	-	3	3	-	204	204	-
22	Thesis	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Total					28			



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Program Curriculum

Table 2: Core courses

Course Code	Course Title	Number of Credits			Hours			Pre-requisites or Concurrent Courses
		Theoretical	Practical	Total	Theoretical	Practical	Total	
23	Computer skills (advance)	1	1	2	17	34	51	-
24	Journal graphics	0.5	1.5	2	9	51	60	-
25	Concepts and theories of mass communication	2	-	2	34	-	34	-
26	Online production*	0.5	1.5	2	9	51	60	-
Total		8						

Table 3: Non-core courses

***Students should pass 4 credits of the abovementioned courses (table 3) consistent with the subject of their thesis as approved by their supervisor and the council of graduate studies**