



Introduction to Evidence Based Practice and Communication

COURSE SYLLABUS (EBPC00ODM24)

2024

Course Facilitator: Jiahui Wong, M.D., PhD

Course Offering: de Souza Institute

Course Format: eLearning

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Technical Support: support@desouzainstitute.com

Registration: Required

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Health care has a history of using research in practice. With more and more research studies being conducted, clinical practice guidelines are constantly being updated. Reading medical journal articles can be time consuming, and many of us need to find the information quickly. Evidence-based practice is a conscious problem-solving approach to gather current best available information, appraise their quality, and translate the information for decision support.

In this course, participants will expand on basic principles of eHealth and systematic literature review and appraisal in health care. Participants will explore concepts in eHealth relating to their own healthcare practice. History and trends will be explored as well as future directions within the field. Furthermore, participants will learn how to find evidenced based and up-to-date information and articles that are accessible (de Souza Institute Virtual Library) to health care professionals, and analyze information to guide clinical decision making.

Domain of Practice	Developing Professional Practice and Leadership
Learning Hours	14 hours
de Souza Credit	0.25 credits

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain eHealth in relation to healthcare practice.
- Give examples of barriers and benefits of using and adopting eHealth in healthcare, and the related ethical principles.
- List and explain future trends in eHealth and summarize how to empower patients with eHealth.
- Describe the process of creating a clear and “answerable” question that can guide literature searches.
- Describe the steps to find information through the use of a systematic search process of various databases
- Articulate different types of research studies, such as: well-designed randomized controlled trials versus observational studies, versus expert opinion
- Describe the quality or "level of evidence" associated with each type of study
- Search for information, using a systematic search process from a reliable medical database such as CINAHL or PUBMED
- Describe key steps to appraise the quality of the literature, and their applicability to address practice issue.
- Describe steps involved to include patient characteristics and your clinical environment in order to arrive at an evidence-based recommendation.

C. MODE OF LEARNING

The main mechanisms to facilitate learning in this course will entail eLearning.

eLearning

eLearning, offered through the de Souza eLearning centre, will cover the following activities:

1. Self-directed learning of module content and required readings
2. Reflective submission (weeks 1-2) and a three part assignment (weeks 3-5)

The eLearning environment fosters a self-directed approach for participants to progress through the modules at a convenient time, either at home or work. The course timetable in Section G on page 5 of the course syllabus outlines weekly expectations for participants.

- Learning and application: Sections and modules are developed by the de Souza education team to reflect the latest knowledge in eHealth and in critical appraisal of journal articles.
- Readings, reflective submission and assignments are intended to enhance the eLearning content surrounding key topic areas. There will be two reflective submissions on ehealth in clinical practice and a three part assignment to practice literature search and appraisal.
- Technical support will be provided throughout the course.

D. MODES OF EVALUATION

As part of the evaluation process, you are required to complete the following:

- A baseline evaluation: This survey assesses your knowledge, attitude, confidence, and learning methods before you begin the eLearning modules for the course.
- Three eLearning units, required readings: It is expected that you will complete the self-directed eLearning units and readings during the six week period.
- Reflective submissions: you will demonstrate learning through the weekly reflective submission in week one and week two.
- Assignment: This consists of three parts, to be completed in week 3 to week 5.
 1. Creating an answerable question (Part 1)
 2. Searching for literature on a given topic (Part 2)
 3. A comprehensive literature search and review based on your question from Part 1 (Part 3)
- Post evaluation: At the end of the course, you will be required to complete a post course evaluation. This will be facilitated electronically through eLearning.

When you have met the all the above requirements, you will receive a downloadable certificate of completion via *My Account* and will receive a credit towards de Souza designation.

To see grading rubric for the course, refer to Appendix A.

E. TIME REQUIREMENT AND EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

To be successful in completing this course, you are encouraged to set aside 2 to 3 hours each week to complete each section as learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is 14 hours.

Sections and modules are to be completed sequentially; participants can choose to complete one section each week or complete multiple sections and modules at once.

Your course activity completion will be reflected in your grade book. Evidence of engagement through active participation will result in a positive learning experience. You will be expected to complete all three sections through the eLearning system. It is strongly recommended for participants not to plan a vacation during the course offering period.

F. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

The facilitator for this course will be responsible to answer questions related to course content, to monitor the registration process, to facilitate the eLearning modules, grade reflective submissions and assignments, and be available to you for questions throughout the course. You can expect me to respond to your queries within 24-hour time period during the week and 48 hours on the weekend. Technical support is available by contacting support@desouzainstitute.com.

G. COURSE TIMELINE

The following sections are to be completed in sequential order according to numerical identifier.

Unit	Topic	Post Date	Date to complete
Introduction	eLearning Center Orientation	Within first week of the course	Completion by the end of first week
1	eHealth and its Application in Cancer Care	Reflective submission within the first two wks of the course	Completion by the end of 2 nd week
2	eHealth and Ethics	Reflective submission within the 3 rd wk of the course	Completion by the end of 3 rd week
3	Using Online Publications to Inform Practice	Complete the three-part assignment	See assignment
Assignment	Assignment Part 1 Assignment Part 2 Assignment Part 3	Weeks 4-6	
Final Evaluation	Complete Participant Post Survey by end of 7 th week.		

H. FACILITATOR’S BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Jiahui Wong has been involved in research and program evaluation over the past 15 years in pharmaceutical, educational, and health services area. Jiahui completed her medical school in China, has an MSc in Epidemiology from Laval University in Quebec and a PhD from the Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto. Her recent research activities include instrument developments on attitudes and behaviours in genetic testing; phase 3 clinical trials on psychosocial interventions for breast cancer survivors as well as program evaluation in medical education. Jiahui is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto and manager for curriculum and program evaluation at de Souza Institute, UHN.

Additional Information Regarding Learning At de Souza Institute

A. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

de Souza Institute has a virtual library that can be accessed to those registered in this course or any other de Souza Institute continuing education program. This resource enables you to access over 1500 e-Journals, 200 e-books and 8 on-line databases such as CINHALL or Ovid-Medline. You can use the virtual library to access the required reading materials for your course. The virtual library can be accessed 24 hours a day at any location that has internet access using a login and password.

The direct link is <https://library.desouzainstitute.com/login>

B. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

eLearning Centre Orientation

If this is the first time you are taking a course offered by the de Souza Institute, please complete the eLearning Centre Orientation course (free of charge). This course is designed to introduce you to online learning and help you understand how to navigate through the de Souza Institute eLearning centre and courses. It is strongly recommended that you complete this orientation so you will be able to successfully navigate de Souza's eLearning environment.

de Souza Support

If you have questions about the content of a course, please email your course facilitator. If you need assistance accessing or navigating the eLearning Centre, please refer to the eLearning Orientation course. If you have questions or have any general technical difficulties please contact help@desouzainstitute.com.

E. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click on the links below to read de Souza Institute's Policies and Procedures.

[Academic Honesty and Copyright Policy](#)

[Cancellations, Incomplete and No Show Policy](#)

[Request for Accommodation Policy](#)

Appendix A: Grading Rubric

Component	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Reflective submissions	2 mandatory reflective submissions associated with each module. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 reflective submission – 20% • Section 2 reflective submission – 20% 	40%
Literature search and appraisal	Assignment – Section 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 – 10% • Part 2 – 20% • Part 3 – 30% 	60%
	The passing grade for this course is 75%	