



**BIO 255E Medical Microbiology
Syllabus
2025-2026**

Course Information

BIO 255E Medical Microbiology

Credits: 3

Class schedule: This is a self-paced course. Students must complete the course within 16 weeks (112 days) of registration.

Class Location: This is an online course.

Prerequisites: None

Contact Information

To contact your instructor, it is best practice to use the **'Messages'** tab in your course. In your course, refer to **Start Here → Contacting your Instructor**, for precise instructions on the correct procedures for course communications. Using this method will send your email directly to your instructor and to administrative staff within the school. This will enable us to help you as quickly as possible. Please allow 1 - 2 business days for a response to your messages.

Office Hours: Please email to schedule an appointment

Course Description

An introduction to microbial principles designed to give a functional understanding of microorganisms, their role in disease and the environment, and our defenses against infections. The laboratory covers the principles of microscopy, aseptic techniques, and microbial cultivation and control.

Text/ Primary Course Materials

Required:

This course uses an online course materials package. **Purchases must be made by accessing the link provided in the 'Course Information' section in the Microbiology course Blackboard page.**

- Microbiology: An Introduction, Tortora, G. J., Funke, B. R., and Case, C. L., 14th Ed., Pearson Education, Inc. (including access to publisher's website resources, Pearson's New Mastering Microbiology)

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Discuss the origins and definition of scientific discipline of microbiology
- Describe the cell biology, growth, control, and classification of microorganisms.
- Comprehend the most common and important human pathogens and the diseases they cause.
- Recognize and distinguish the categories of the body's defenses against infectious disease.

Online Tutoring

The University offers free, online tutoring services through TutorMe. This service is available 24/7 and covers over 300 subject areas. To access TutorMe and be connected with a live tutor, select the "Tools" option in Blackboard. Tutoring services are offered on demand and appointments are not required. Each



session may be archived and accessed at any time throughout the course. The weekly limit for each student is 6 hours per week. The hours reset on Sundays.

Office of Student Access and Accommodations (OSAA)

A students' right to equal education is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students must abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures set forth in the MCPHS Academic Catalog. Questions regarding accommodations can be directed to the Office of Student Access and Accommodations.

Under the ADA/Section 504, students with documented disabilities/conditions, that impact their access to education, and wish to request reasonable accommodations can contact the Office of Student Access and Accommodations (OSAA). To initiate services, students can complete the [Student Request for Services Form](#).

OSAA can be contacted via email at OSAA@mcphs.edu or via phone at 617-879-5995.

Access to Coursework after Course Completion

You will not be able to access course materials or assignments in Blackboard once your final grade has been posted. If you think you might need to reference your work at a later date, be sure you have saved a separate copy of your assignments, papers, and discussions. Faculty cannot provide access to the course once you have completed the course or received a final grade.

Academic Calendar

From the time of registration, students are given 16 weeks to complete their course requirements. Students will not be granted an enrollment extension unless there are documented extenuating circumstances. The Add/Drop period runs for 5-business days after registration. Dropping the course for a full tuition refund and course changes are allowed during this time and may be requested by emailing professionalstudies@mcphs.edu.

After the 5-business day refund period, students may choose to withdraw from the course without a refund. This will result in a "W" on their MCPHS transcript. Students will have the option of withdrawing from the course up until their completion date.

Course Requirements:

Your grade in this course will be comprised of quizzes, corresponding to each new topic for each module and two exams. Each exam will cover approximately half the course. Quizzes contain 10 questions and exams contain 60 questions. Each assessment is timed to provide an average of 1 minute per question. Students will only have one opportunity to take an assessment and each must be completed once a student begins. There are no extra assessments in this course.

**Please note that the time allotted for assessments is designed to encourage students to study material in depth. Since most basic scientific facts require memorization, students should devote enough study time so those facts have been retained and are capable of being recalled quickly. The retention of this type of information will provide a solid foundation of scientific knowledge that will benefit each student as they advance in both their academic and professional careers.*



Category	Weight (%)
Quizzes (14)	50
Exam I	25
Exam II	25
Total	100

Grades on each assignment will be posted in the *Blackboard* grade center. ***Keep a personal copy of all assignments/projects/proposals posted so your work can be resubmitted if there is a posting or transmission error.***

Grading Scale

Each letter grade is defined as follows: (standard decimal rounding rules apply)

Final Course %	Grade	Final Course %	Grade
93-100	A	77-79	C+
90-92	A-	73-76	C
87-89	B+	70-72	C-
83-86	B	60-69	D
80-82	B-	< 60	F

Attendance policy:

Having an effective learning experience in an online learning environment is predicated on independent time management, personal responsibility, and consistent student activity. Therefore, planning and completion of assignments by the end of the 16 weeks is expected. Failure to complete either of the exams, or 2 quizzes will result in a failing grade for this course.

NOTE: *Issues relating to wifi/internet connectivity, computer malfunctions, website access, or any other technical issue you might encounter during an assignment week is NOT a valid reason or excuse as to why an assignment could not be completed. You are expected to plan your time so that any technical issue that might arise will not prevent you from proper assignment submission.*

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

The University presumes that students will assume personal responsibility and maintain personal integrity in all aspects of their education. Dishonest actions in the execution of an examination, report, academic assignment, and/or academic coursework requirement, constitute violations of the MCPHS Academic



Honesty Policy. Such violations are subject to specific academic sanctions, as well as to disciplinary sanctions (i.e., disciplinary warning, probation, deferred suspension, suspension, and/or expulsion).

Academic violations or offenses include the following:

- Receiving assistance, or attempting to receive assistance, not authorized by an instructor in the preparation of any assignment, laboratory exercise, report, or examination submitted as a requirement for an academic course or rotation.
- Knowingly giving unauthorized assistance, or attempting to give unauthorized assistance, to another student in the preparation of any assignment, laboratory exercise, report, or examination submitted as a requirement for an academic course or rotation.
- Plagiarism: Submitting another person's work (including words, images, and ideas) as one's own without the proper acknowledgment of source, or use of the words or ideas of another without crediting the source of those words or ideas. Also, submitting the same work for assignments in more than one class (copying from oneself) without permission from the instructor and/or appropriate citation, in the same semester or subsequent semesters.
- Obtaining or attempting to engage another person to take one's own examination.
- Selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing any material that can be shown to contain the questions or answers to any examination scheduled to be given at any subsequent date in any course of study offered by the University.
- Taking, or attempting to take, steal, or otherwise procure in any unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the conduct of a class, including examinations.
- Falsifying or presenting fictional patient information as real to fulfill requirements for work assigned by individual faculty members or clinical preceptors.
- Signing in another student or requesting to be signed in by another student on a course attendance sheet; or falsely recording another student's attendance (as with the use of "clicker").
- Altering, or attempting to alter grades or information on any assignment, laboratory exercise, report, exam, or previously completed examination as a requirement for an academic course or rotation.

Each student is expected to abide by the University's Academic Honesty Policy as explained in the MCPHS Student Handbook (<https://www.mcphs.edu/student-life/student-handbook>). Plagiarism is considered a violation of this policy. Plagiarism is defined as submitting another person's work as one's own without proper acknowledgement or using the words or ideas of others without crediting the source of those words or ideas.

All course requirements must be completed independently by the student. Students may not work together or share information without specific authorization from the instructor.

Email Account:

All MCPHS students are required to open, utilize, and maintain their MCPHS email. Official college communications and notices, including communications for this course are ONLY delivered to MCPHS email accounts. All students are responsible for regularly checking their MCPHS email and for information contained therein. The University does not forward MCPHS email to personal email accounts. You can access your MCPHS email by using your MCPHS credentials to log into <http://outlook.com/mcphs.edu>.



Students must abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures set forth in the MCPHS Catalog and Student Handbook. Important information regarding Description of Credit Hour Policy, Excused Absence Approval, Disability Support Services for students, Academic Honesty and Plagiarism and other academic policies is set forth in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the MCPHS Catalog.

MCPHS Course Catalog

<https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/university-course-catalog>

MCPHS Student Handbook

<https://www.mcphs.edu/student-life/student-handbook>

Students must read, understand, and comply with all of these policies and procedures.

Lecture Schedule:

Module	Topic	Chapters
1	Introduction & History	1
2	Cell Structure & Viruses	4 & 13
3	Bacterial Growth & Metabolism	5 - 6
4	Genetics & Biotechnology	8 - 9
5	Control of Growth & Antibiotics	7 & 20
6	Principles of Disease & Pathogenicity	14 - 15
7	Exam I (Modules 1-6)	
8	The Immune System	16 - 17
9	Immunology Applications & Disorders	18 - 19
10	Diseases of the Skin and Eyes	21
11	Diseases of the Nervous System	22



12	Diseases of the Cardiovascular System	23
13	Diseases of the Respiratory System	24
14	Diseases of the Digestive System	25
15	Diseases of the Genitourinary System	26
16	Exam II (Modules 8-15)	