


**Reimagining Courses  
for Medical & Health  
Professionals**



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Boston University / CELOP

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**Communication for Professionals  
Harvard School of Public Health**

- Weekly individual or small group meetings
- Offered to doctoral students or post docs
- Aimed at improving oral and written skills
- Included work on tenses, phrasal verbs, colloquial and scientific expressions
  - Focus on accent reduction and prosody improvement
  - Practice for presentations at professional meetings
  - Proofreading of manuscripts before submission

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**Communication Skills  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**

- Doctoral students, post-docs, and research fellows
- High intermediate to advanced levels (one class)
- Functional spoken and written English, e.g., asking for clarification, describing a process, summarizing information, reporting results; telephone and email conventions (informal and formal)
- Writing a simple research paper on scientific topics
- McMillan, V. (2001) *Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences*, Bedford/St. Martin's.

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### English for Health & Medical Professionals Boston University

- Intensive summer course (4 – 6 weeks)
- Master’s and doctoral candidates, Fulbright scholars, and other professionals
- Academic and professional preparation
- Skills development
  - Oral and written communication
  - Discussion, debate and presentation skills
  - Response papers, research paper

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### Lectures and Field Trips

- Lecture topics
  - Medication errors
  - HIV-AIDS
  - Partners in Health
- Field trips
  - Harvard Initiative for Global Health (HIGH)
  - Boston Medical Center, Boston University Medical Library, Children’s Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Joslin Diabetes Clinic, Harvard School of Public Health, Mass. College of Pharmacy, Mass. General Hospital

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### Materials

- Books
  - *Anatomy and Physiology* (Pearson/Longman, 2006)
  - *English for Health Science* (Thomson, 2006)
  - *Professional English in Use: Medicine* (CUP, 2007)
- Films/videos/DVDs
  - *Food Inc., Sicko, Supersize Me*
  - *Big Bucks Big Pharma, Medicated Child, Selling Sickness*
  - *House, Grey’s Anatomy*
- Websites
  - <http://www.TED.com>
  - <http://www.casestudies.org>
  - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (medical writing)

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### Writing for Graduate Students in Public Health / Boston University

- Weekly two-hour class in writing with emphasis on narrative for objective reporting, analysis, persuasion, clear representation of graphic data
- Weekly half-hour tutorials to address individual students' needs
- Regular response to student papers by email (Word comments feature)

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### Components of Course

Formal instruction includes guidelines for writing

- Abstracts
- Book reports
- Policy memos
- Site visit reports
- Paraphrasing and citation conventions
- Articles for publication in professional journals

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### Materials

- Books
  - *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills* (University of Michigan Press)
- Web resources
  - OWL <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (prof>med writing)
  - AMA and other professional websites
  - Individual professional journal websites
- Syllabi and rubrics from SPH faculty

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### Materials (cont'd)

- Boston University Medical Center Information for Researchers and Writers  
<http://medlib.bu.edu/webcollections/>
- American Psychological Association citation style guide <http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx>
- Council of Biology Editors (CBE) Style of Documentation in Science and Mathematics  
<http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/library/cbe.htm>

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### Additional Resources

- Medical Terminology Web (Center for Applied English Studies , University of Hong Kong)  
<http://caes.hku.hk/mt/>
- Merriam-Webster Online  
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/browse/medical/g.htm>
- Medical terminology jukebox (Wisc-Online, Mary Rahr, Wisconsin Technical College System)  
[http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index\\_tj.asp?objID=GEN504](http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=GEN504)

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### Contact Information

- Boston University / Center for English Language and Orientation Programs – Medical English  
[http://www.bu.edu/celop/programs/summer/en\\_health-med\\_prof.html](http://www.bu.edu/celop/programs/summer/en_health-med_prof.html)
- Chris Antonellis [cantonel@bu.edu](mailto:cantonel@bu.edu)
- Carol Piñeiro [chp-bu@bu.edu](mailto:chp-bu@bu.edu)
- Nora Smith [nsmith@bu.edu](mailto:nsmith@bu.edu)

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