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From: Missouri Area Health Education Centers

### Offering College Credit

Offering college credit to Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars (ACES) students is a beneficial service that helps prepare them for college careers. Heather Phillips, Health Programs Coordinator for SWMO AHEC, currently partners with Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) in Joplin, MO, to offer Medical Terminology. The 3-credit hour class is offered in both seated and online options, allowing students from across Missouri to participate. The class is open and available to students of other regions and AHEC Centers.

Medical terminology training is especially important for students wishing to pursue a science, medical, or other healthcare-related field of study and work. Students learn how to identify medical terms and words; define the body structure and its systems, cavities, planes, and positions; and the importance of medical terminology in health-care professions. Starting a job or training program with a background knowledge of medical nomenclature sets AHEC students above others in the same position.

Since the Medical Terminology course has been offered through AHEC, a total of 56 students have completed the course or are currently enrolled. Many are ACES students; however, HOSA and Medical Explorers students have also taken the course. This an excellent recruitment, marketing, and partnership technique to use to reach out to other populations. The course also transfers well. One student stated, "The Medical Terminology course was so helpful! It even transferred to MSU and was useful to my pursuit in my major Cell Molecular Biology. I'm graduating early because I transferred so many credits!"

Of those that have taken the Medical Terminology course for dual credit, several paths have been created. For example: one student starts pharmacy school this fall, one just started his second year in the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) MD/BA program, two start pre-nursing this fall, three are in nursing school, two are applying to medical school, one is working on pharmaceutical research, 14 are planning to major in a pre-medical undergraduate program, and 12 are planning to go into nursing programs.

For more information on the course, please contact SWMO AHEC Director, Trisha Doering at [TrishaDoering@missouristate.edu](mailto:TrishaDoering@missouristate.edu) or the Health Programs Coordinator, Heather Phillips at [Heather17@missouristate.edu](mailto:Heather17@missouristate.edu).



*Heather Phillips, Health Program Coordinator, leading the Medical Terminology course*

*MAHEC is a partnership of seven locally-governed organizations and three university-based health professions education programs working statewide to increase the numbers of Missouri youth entering stable, high-paying jobs as healthcare professionals and the numbers of professionals caring for underserved populations.*

*The MAHEC partners include:*

- A.T. Still University –
  - Kirksville
- University of Missouri –
  - Columbia
- Saint Louis University
- Northeast Missouri AHEC –Kirksville
- Northwest Missouri AHEC
  - St. Joseph
- West Central Missouri
  - AHEC – Lexington
- Mid-Missouri AHEC – Rolla
- East Central Missouri AHEC– St. Louis
- Southeastern Missouri AHEC – Poplar Bluff
- Southwest Missouri AHEC
  - – Springfield

***MAHEC: Connecting students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health***