DEPARTMENT: Biostatistics
COURSE NUMBER: BIOS 745R
CREDIT HOURS: 1
COURSE TITLE: Biostatistical Consulting

INSTRUCTOR NAME: Kirk Easley

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION
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SCHOOL ADDRESS OR MAILBOX LOCATION: GCR #358
OFFICE HOURS: (by Appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3-4 Sentences)
The first part of the course is dedicated to preparing students to act as consultants through discussions of consulting models, interpersonal communication, ethics, common client types, time and financial management and other issues. This course is also designed to give students some practical experience as a biostatistical consultant. Students will meet with clients, analyze data sets and produce summary reports.

EVALUATION
Emphasis is placed on class participation (50%) when discussing assigned readings and videotape viewings. Each student will give a presentation summarizing their consulting projects/experiences (25%). A case study will be assigned and each student will analyze the data and write a report summarizing the findings (25%).
LEARNING OBJECTIVES OR COMPETENCIES OF THE COURSE

The primary learning objective is to develop skills necessary to be an effective biostatistical collaborator. Success requires an environment in which the biostatistician is an integral part of all phases of a research project (design, implementation and analysis). Strong communication skills [a mix of tact, persistence, compromise, willingness to listen, and friendly persuasion] are necessary to be successful in consulting and collaboration. Working with experienced biostatisticians and investigators is central to developing the skills necessary to be an effective consultant and collaborator.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OR COMPETENCIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM TO WHICH THE COURSE CONTRIBUTES

Assist in identifying appropriate statistical designs for medical and public health research

Perform power analyses and select appropriate sample sizes for medical and public health research

Use a variety of statistical computer packages

Conduct appropriate statistical analyses

Apply new and existing statistical theory to a broad range of complex medical and public health problems

Communicate the results of statistical studies both orally and in writing to senior biostatisticians and other investigators