Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

Curriculum
2026/2027

For course

Medical English I

Study program:	**Medical Studies in English (R)** University integrated undergraduate and graduate study
Department:	**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in Medicine**
Course coordinator:	**Smiljanić Siniša**
Year of study:	**1**
ECTS:	**1**
Incentive ECTS:	**0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language:	**Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

Course information:

Medical English I is a compulsory course in the first year of the study of Medicine in English. It includes 20 hours of seminars (**1 ECTS**).

The course aims to introduce the students to the language of medicine and medical terminology. They will acquire the rules of word formation, which will enable them to understand the meaning of medical terms and help them understand professional medical texts during their studies.

Through the preparation and a short oral presentation on a given topic, the students will improve their ability to find, summarize, and present data and information, including fluency in pronouncing medical terms.

Course content: Morphology of medical terms and principles of word formation applied to medical terminology; interpretation of word roots, combining forms, suffixes, and prefixes in the formation and understanding of medical terms; review of the basic rules for the use of articles and morphological rules for the formation of classical plurals specific to medical language; translation of key terms into Croatian.

The students individually prepare and present a short oral presentation on a topic from their professional courses studied in the first year and receive constructive feedback on their performance. The course ends after successfully completing all oral (presentations) and written (short quizzes, final test) assignments.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- recognize and interpret the meaning of a medical term based on its word root, prefix, and suffix
- apply the principles of word formation in the construction of medical terms
- apply the rules of article use in medical writing
- differentiate between plural formation in General English and English for medical purposes
- critically analyze the existing literature on the chosen presentation topic
- give a presentation
- communicate clearly and accurately new knowledge

Course structure:

The course is organized through 20 hours of seminars. It is distributed continuously for 10 weeks in the first semester of the study.

List of assigned reading:

Handouts available on Merlin.
Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary, W.B. Saunders Company
Merriam-Webster online dictionary

List of optional reading:

Chabner, D.-E. 2017. The Language of Medicine. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier. Shiland, B. J. 2018.
Medical Terminology & Anatomy for Coding. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier.
Books, e-books, articles, Internet pages and other sources relevant for the topic of the oral presentation

Curriculum:

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

S1. Introduction

Students are introduced to the aims, contents, and requirements of the course. The students select topics for their presentations. Quiz.

S2. Basic structure of a medical term

Remember the rules of forming medical terms; recognize and interpret the meaning of a medical term using its word root; recognize parts of speech

S3. Combining forms – body parts and tissues; oral presentations

Connect the word root and its meaning; deduce the meaning of an expression based on its word root; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic.

S4. Suffixes denoting states, disorders, diagnostic procedures; oral presentations

Recognize the suffix and interpret its meaning; deconstruct a medical term into its key components; deduce the meaning of a medical term based on its suffix; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S5. Suffixes denoting surgical procedures, pertaining to and resembling; oral presentations

Deduce the meaning of a medical term based on its suffix; deconstruct a medical term into its key components; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S6. Prefixes denoting position, location, color, measurement, number, oral presentations

Recognize the prefix and interpret its meaning; connect a medical term and its definition; distinguish between the role of the prefix and suffix in word formation; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S7. Prefixes denoting negation, direction, and miscellaneous prefixes; oral presentations

Interpret the meaning of the prefix; connect a medical term and its definition; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic.

S8. Using articles in medical writing, oral presentations

Distinguish the context in which articles are used (body parts, tissues, medical conditions, diseases); convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S9. Classical plurals, oral presentations

Form and correctly pronounce plural nouns derived from classical languages; convey information clearly and precisely about the selected presentation topic

S10. Test

The test includes the following units: Basic structure of a medical term, combining forms, suffixes, prefixes, articles, classical plurals.

Student obligations:

Students must regularly attend seminars (minimum 70%), actively participate in classes, submit all written assignments on time, and pass the final test. If a student cannot complete a particular assignment by the agreed deadline and/or take the final test for justified reasons (e.g., in case of illness), they must inform the instructor at least 1 day in advance.

Exam (exam taking, description of the written/oral/practical part of the exam, point distribution, grading criteria):

The course ends with a test on a pass/fail basis, which is taken on the last day of the course. After completing all course requirements and participating in at least 70% of seminars, the students will receive a passing grade.

The test is considered passed when at least 50% of the total number of points is obtained.

Other notes (related to the course) important for students:

All updates, weekly class materials, and test results will be available to students on the Merlin platform.
In order to promote academic integrity, all written work will be checked in the Turnitin plagiarism system and the AI Content Detector software to check for AI-generated content.

COURSE HOURS 2026/2027

Medical English I

Seminars (Place and time or group)
08.10.2026
S1. Introduction: • P07 (14:00 - 16:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
14.10.2026
S2. Basic structure of a medical term: • P07 (14:00 - 16:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
22.10.2026
S3. Combining forms – body parts and tissues; oral presentations: • P07 (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
28.10.2026
S4. Suffixes denoting states, disorders, diagnostic procedures; oral presentations: • P07 (14:00 - 16:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
04.11.2026
S5. Suffixes denoting surgical procedures, pertaining to and resembling; oral presentations: • P07 (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
09.11.2026
S6. Prefixes denoting position, location, color, measurement, number, oral presentations: • P08 (10:00 - 12:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
16.11.2026
S7. Prefixes denoting negation, direction, and miscellaneous prefixes; oral presentations: • P07 (10:00 - 12:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
23.11.2026

S8. Using articles in medical writing, oral presentations: • P07 (10:00 - 12:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
03.12.2026
S9. Classical plurals, oral presentations: • P08 (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
07.12.2026
S10. Test: • P02 (16:00 - 18:00) [3314]   ○ ME1
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
S1. Introduction	2	P07
S2. Basic structure of a medical term	2	P07
S3. Combining forms – body parts and tissues; oral presentations	2	P07
S4. Suffixes denoting states, disorders, diagnostic procedures; oral presentations	2	P07
S5. Suffixes denoting surgical procedures, pertaining to and resembling; oral presentations	2	P07
S6. Prefixes denoting position, location, color, measurement, number, oral presentations	2	P08
S7. Prefixes denoting negation, direction, and miscellaneous prefixes; oral presentations	2	P07
S8. Using articles in medical writing, oral presentations	2	P07
S9. Classical plurals, oral presentations	2	P08
S10. Test	2	P02

EXAM DATES (final exam):

1.	11.12.2026.
2.	11.02.2027.
3.	25.02.2027.
4.	07.09.2027.