Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka

Curriculum
2026/2027

For course

Medical English VI

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:	**6**
ECTS:	**1**
Incentive ECTS:	**0 (0.00%)**
Foreign language:	**Possibility of teaching in a foreign language**

Course information:

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

The course **aims** to improve students' oral and written academic skills and expand the vocabulary used when discussing and presenting scientific research and facts.

Course content: Critical reading of medical texts with accompanying reading comprehension and vocabulary exercises; short written assignments.
Topics that will serve as an incentive for the development of communication skills may include: euthanasia, genetic engineering, fertility, transplantation operations, assisted dying, abortion, conscientious objection, wearing a mask during a pandemic, and compulsory vaccination of children. Students will familiarize themselves with the guidelines for writing a scientific paper (introduction, research methods, results, discussion, objectives, main findings), especially key expressions necessary for the clear and precise communication of theoretical knowledge and scientific results, as well as for successful conference presentations.
Students' progress will be continuously monitored through short quizzes and completed written assignments. Students will receive constructive individual and group feedback on their progress. The course is considered passed after completing all written assignments (no later than the final seminar in week 10), the student participated in at least 70% of classes, and the final test has been passed.

Learning outcomes:
• understand professional and scientific texts, identify key ideas and specific information
• distinguish and apply different language registers (formal/informal expression)
• recognize grammatical and lexical structures typical of medical language in speech and writing
• apply acquired grammatical structures and medical terminology in written and oral expression

Course structure:
The course is organized through 20 hours of seminars. It is distributed continuously for 10 weeks. The course is based on the students' active participation in the seminars.

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.

Books, e-books, articles, Internet pages and other sources relevant to the topic of the oral presentation and written assignments.

Curriculum:

Seminars list (with titles and explanation):

S1. Introduction to the course / The History of Digestion: Difficult to Stomach – text analysis and reading comprehension

The students are introduced to the aims, contents, and requirements of the course.

The History of Digestion: Difficult to Stomach – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key medical terms; form nouns from given verbs; come up with a medical term based on the definition provided; analyze the context and come up with the correct expression (gap filling); analyze the context and fill in the gap with the appropriate word (gap filling); spot mistakes and correct misspelled parts of sentences

S2. Physical fitness and health – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; recognize true/false statements; offer synonyms and antonyms of key expressions from the text; supplement the text with a modified form of the offered expression; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); paraphrase sentences

S3. Research With a Brain… and Another Brain – Text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: define key expressions from the text; complete the sentences with the corresponding article; complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the verb; spot and correct incorrectly used prepositions; form the passive voice

S4. Coronal Mass Ejections: New Research Directions – Text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key expressions from the text; form nouns/verbs/adjectives; distinguish the use of modal verbs; analyze the context and choose the appropriate expression based on the offered answers (gap filling); paraphrase sentences; use terminology that clarifies the structure of the research work.

S5. Earth microbes on the moon – text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key expressions from the text; complete the text with a modified form of the offered expression (gap filling); analyze the context and recognize the appropriate one based on the offered homonyms

S6. The high fructose corn syrup crisis – Text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key expressions from the text; supplement the text with a modified form of the offered expression (gap filling); form adjectives of appearance and behavior; form collocations

S7. Microbiomes – Text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: offer definitions of medical terms; supplement the text with a modified form of the offered expression (gap filling); come up with an expression that fits the context; spot grammatically incorrect expressions; match the phrasal verb with an example of its use

S8. Mental health – Text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: summarize the text; define key expressions from the text; supplement the text with a modified form of the offered expression (gap filling); analyze the context and choose the correct medical term

S9. Laughter – Text analysis and reading comprehension

Learning outcomes: define key terms: form synonyms and antonyms; analyze the context and choose the correct (medical) term

S10. Test

Pass / Fail

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 VI

Seminars (Place and time or group)
15.12.2026
S1. Introduction to the course / The History of Digestion: Difficult to Stomach – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (17:00 - 19:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
19.01.2027

S2. Physical fitness and health – text analysis and reading comprehension:
• ONLINE (16:00 - 18:00) [3314]
  ◦ MEV_384
 	
S3. Research With a Brain... and Another Brain – Text analysis and reading comprehension:
• ONLINE (18:00 - 20:00) [3314]
  ◦ MEV_384

Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
22.01.2027
S4. Coronal Mass Ejections: New Research Directions – Text analysis and reading comprehension: • ONLINE (15:00 - 17:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
25.01.2027
S5. Earth microbes on the moon – text analysis and reading comprehension: • P04 (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
26.01.2027
S6. The high fructose corn syrup crisis – Text analysis and reading comprehension: • P08 (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
27.01.2027
S7. Microbiomes – Text analysis and reading comprehension: • P06 (14:00 - 16:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
02.02.2027
S8. Mental health – Text analysis and reading comprehension: • v (16:00 - 18:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]

03.02.2027
S9. Laughter – Text analysis and reading comprehension: • P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH (13:00 - 15:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]
05.02.2027
S10. Test: • P02 (14:00 - 16:00) [3314]   ◦ MEV_384
Smiljanić Siniša [3314]

List of lectures, seminars and practicals:

SEMINARS (TOPIC)	Number of hours	Location
S1. Introduction to the course / The History of Digestion: Difficult to Stomach – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S2. Physical fitness and health – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S3. Research With a Brain... and Another Brain – Text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S4. Coronal Mass Ejections: New Research Directions – Text analysis and reading comprehension	2	ONLINE
S5. Earth microbes on the moon – text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P04
S6. The high fructose corn syrup crisis – Text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P08
S7. Microbiomes – Text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P06
S8. Mental health – Text analysis and reading comprehension	2	v
S9. Laughter – Text analysis and reading comprehension	2	P09 - TEACHING IN ENGLISH
S10. Test	2	P02

EXAM DATES (final exam):

1.	02.02.2027.
2.	05.05.2027.
3.	18.06.2027.
4.	02.07.2027.
5.	06.09.2027.
6.	20.09.2027.