



Social Security and Medicare Law (ELD-401)

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive overview of social security and Medicare. It focuses on how social security and Medicare taxes are collected and on the retirement and disability benefits provided. The course also discusses benefits for family members and how and when adverse social security findings can be challenged or appealed. The Medicare section of the course defines Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, explains the roles of each, and discusses the rules that apply to each Part. The course also discusses the different types of Medicare plans available and the coverage for services each provides.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explain the importance of Social Security to the United States;
- Discuss the retirement benefits program provided by Social Security;
- Describe how Social Security provides financial benefits to those who are unable to work due to a physical injury or mental disability;
- List and explain the benefits available to the family members of social security beneficiaries;
- Discuss the process of appealing a Social Security Administration decision on benefits and describe the four levels of appeal available to applicants;
- Determine whether someone is eligible for Medicare;
- Describe the four parts of Medicare coverage;
- Differentiate among the variety of plans in which a Medicare recipient may enroll and what coverage each plan provides for services and medications;
- Determine the costs of services covered under Medicare Parts A, B and D.

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click “Take the Final Exam” and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials.

Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the “email us” button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam; so watching the case studies is necessary before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Medicare

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/medicare/>

Medicaid: A Primer:

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/medicaid-a-primer>

Video Course Watching

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Watch the following video-course modules

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/social-security-and-medicare>

Part 1, Module 1: Overview of Social Security

Part 1, Module 2: Social Security Retirement Benefits

Part 1, Module 3: Social Security and Disability Benefits

Part 1, Module 4: Families and Social Security Benefits

Part 1, Module 5: Appealing a Social Security Benefits Decision

Part 2, Module 1: Medicare Eligibility and Overview

Part 2, Module 2: Medicare Coverage Choices

Part 2, Module 3: Medicare Part A: Hospital Insurance

Part 2, Module 4: Medicare Part B: Medical Insurance

Part 2, Module 5: Medicare Part D-Prescription Drugs

Suggested Additional Reading

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations.

NASL Resources on Social Security

<https://www.nasi.org/learn/socialsecurity/overview>

CPBB, Policy Basics: Top Ten Facts About Social Security

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/top-ten-facts-about-social-security>

Social Security Administration, Retirement Benefits

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf>

Social Security Administration, Understanding Supplemental Security Income SSI

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm>

Read the “Basics” of Medicare on the medicare.gov website:

<https://www.medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/get-started-with-medicare/get-the-basics>

Overview of Medicare, US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2790649/>