

Advanced Medical Chinese Longitudinal PEC

Enrollment Period:	June 2 to July 4 2025
Course Dates:	5 meetings all on Thursdays : June 5, June 12, June 19, June 26, July 3
Student Max:	12
Class Year:	MS-1; MS-2
Course Director:	Yi Xu (xuyi@pitt.edu)
Course Instructor:	Bei Cheng (beicheng@pitt.edu)
Course Administrators:	Kimberly Shiqi Hua: Hua.Kimberly@medstudent.pitt.edu Joseph Yap: Yap.Joseph@medstudent.pitt.edu
Location:	TBA
Registration:	
Course Description:	<p>This course is designed to enhance students' proficiency in using Chinese in medical and clinical settings. While students taking the course should have some background with basic conversational Chinese, the course will accommodate students with varying proficiencies. The curriculum emphasizes the acquisition of medical terminology, practical language skills, and cultural understanding crucial for healthcare professionals working with Chinese-speaking patients. Through this course, students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. learn key vocabulary and language patterns frequently used in the medical profession, including describing common medical conditions, discussing medications, and documenting patient histories. 2. develop conversation skills in interviewing patients in Chinese, including understanding patients' chief complaints and explaining course of actions including screening and needed procedures 3. gain hands-on experience through simulations with standardized patients, applying language skills in realistic, clinical scenarios. 4. learn about cultural perspectives on health and medicine, including common beliefs about causes of illnesses (such as colds), views on pain management, and the role of alternative medicine. This cultural education component is designed to enhance communication with Chinese-speaking patients and minimize misunderstandings.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve language skills in conversational Chinese within medical settings, with a focus on developing the ability to understand and be understood in interactions with Chinese-speaking patients in various medical contexts. • To acquire essential medical vocabulary and language patterns in Chinese that enable effective communication on common topics in hospital and clinical settings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To foster cross-cultural awareness and understanding of Chinese medical perspectives on health, illness, and treatment, including beliefs about causes of illness, pain management, medication compliance, and alternative medicine practices.
Pre-Requisites:	Students should have basic Chinese conversation skills, including being able to ask and answer simple questions on daily life topics and being able to read some Chinese (in simplified or traditional characters, and/or with the facilitation of phonetic transcriptions). Students should contact the course director for a pre-course language proficiency assessment after initial registration, so that their linguistic readiness to participate in the course can be evaluated.
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in all 5 sessions. Complete preview and review tasks to prepare for each session. While no written homework will be assigned, preparation is important for students' success in the course and students should expect to spend 1-2 hours before each session for such preparation. Participate in a 20-minute conversation in Chinese with the instructor for proficiency assessment before the start of the course. Please contact the course instructor: beicheng@pitt.edu.
Texts:	Handouts of clinical conversation scripts and vocabulary in Chinese; handouts on conversation scripts on wellness and medicine (<i>Optional textbook: Mandarin for Medical Students: Mastering Clinical Conversation</i>)

Agenda and Format:

- 1. Introduction to foundational language skills:** Students will learn key vocabulary and conversational patterns used in medical settings, focusing on topics such as medications, physical exams, and post-operative care.
- 2. Practice and application:** Role-playing and interactive activities will allow students to practice these conversations in a controlled environment, with additional support from audio-visual materials to reinforce learning.
- 3. Exploration of cultural perspectives:** Students will examine traditional Chinese health beliefs and compare them with Western medical practices
- 4. Engagement with standardized patients:** Most sessions will provide students with opportunities to practice with Chinese-native speaker volunteers acting as standardized patients, providing students with hands-on experience in realistic clinical settings.

Some sample case topics include:

1. Child with fever
2. Chest pain
3. Adult with upper respiratory infection
4. Pre-natal care
5. Flu-like symptoms

Course Director:

Course director Dr. Yi Xu is an experienced Chinese as a foreign language educator and specializes in second language acquisition and teaching. She is the academic coordinator of the

Chinese Language Program at the University and oversees the curricula of all Pitt Chinese language courses. Among her experience of working with diverse student populations, she had experience developing and teaching “Medical English” courses to medical practitioners in China.

Course Instructor:

Bei Cheng is an experienced Chinese language instructor with a master's degree in Asian Civilizations. Since 2016, she has taught at the University of Pittsburgh, specializing in creating engaging and innovative curricula for students of various levels. Her work emphasizes proficiency-based learning, real-world applications, and cultural understanding to help students excel in both language skills and cultural competence.

Needed use of Resources

The course requires five 2-hour sessions of curriculum time. Students will be provided with copies of scripted case scenarios and other materials (such as vocabulary lists).

A small classroom (that accommodates approximately 20 students) with a whiteboard and a projector is needed.