

# Course: Writing & Communicating Biorisk Management Policy

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## *Design Document*



## Part I: Course Overview

### Course Description

#### Overview

*Writing & Communicating Biorisk Management Policy* will provide an understanding of what an institutional policy statement is, how to apply it to biorisk management (BRM), why it is important for an institution to have a BRM policy in place and what purpose it serves, and provides an opportunity to develop a draft policy and to receive the feedback of instructors and students.

#### Scope

This course provides guidelines for writing and communicating a policy statement; it will NOT provide mandatory directions and procedures for developing a policy statement.

#### Learning Level based on Bloom's taxonomy

- ✓ knowledge
- ✓ comprehension
- ✓ application
- synthesis
- evaluation

#### Length of Course

4 hours

### Course Objectives

At the end of this Course, Students will be able to:

#### Organizational Objectives

- Understand what policy statements (i.e. commitment and intent)
- How policy is written, communicated and reviewed

#### Instructional Objectives

- Explain what is a policy statement and its purpose
- Explain why it is important for management to establish and communicate institutional expectations in regards to safety and security management of pathogens
- Explain how a policy statement should be a "living document" that is continuously being reviewed and revised to fit the facility biorisk management mission

#### Personal Objectives

##### Know

- What is a policy statement
- What is included in a policy statement
- Who writes a policy statement
- How is a policy statement written
- Who reads a policy statement

##### Feel

- Confident conversing about basic features found in a policy statement



Confident drafting a policy statement

Do

- Draft a policy statement  
Develop a plan to communicate policy to all layers of the affected workforce

**Key  
Messages**

1. It is imperative for management to establish and communicate institutional expectations regarding safe and secure management of pathogens
2. These expectations must be integrated with the core mission of the institution.
3. A policy states commitment and intent.
4. A policy is an instructional document and, as such is reader-centered
5. A policy must be communicated (transmitted and received) to “count”
6. A policy should be a living document and must reflect emerging issues and continuous improvement – policies must be reviewed and revised.

**Evaluation Strategy**

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**Level 1  
(satisfaction):**

Students will complete a satisfaction survey about their experience with the course

**Level 2  
(learning):**

Students will complete a “learning contract” for the next steps needed to begin biorisk management implementation

**Level 3  
(behavior):**

Desired behavior is for students to participate in additional learning opportunities on BRM – this behavior will be evaluated three to six months post-training and may encompass additional training courses

**Level 4  
(organizational change):**

A repeat of the training needs assessment will be performed at least annually – this annual assessment can be compared to the baseline assessment to determine improvements in biorisk management performance

## Learner Description (for Course design purposes)

*Number of Students:* 10 to 25; small groups of 5 people each

*Biorisk Management Role:*

- ✓ Policy Makers
- ✓ Top Management
- ✓ Biorisk Management Advisors/Advocates
- ✓ Scientific/Lab Management Workforce

*Audience Assumptions:* (assumed range is indicated by shaded cells)

		Novice		Practitioner		Expert
Education	Scientific	1	2	3	4	5
	BRM*	1	2	3	4	5
Expertise	Scientific	1	2	3	4	5
	BRM	1	2	3	4	5
Competence	Scientific	1	2	3	4	5
	BRM	1	2	3	4	5

*BRM = "biorisk management". See definitions for terms in Resources section*

*Language of instruction; translation or interpretation anticipated:* English (for design purposes)

*Prerequisites* Orientation to Biorisk Management

*Pre- or post-work required for completion* None

*Certificates or documents of completion:* Certificates of completion will be provided

*Preparation for future coursework*

*Anticipated next steps* Students will participate in learning tracks, as defined by the local training needs assessment and other subject matter expert (SME) recommendations.

## Instructional Environment

*Number of Instructors/Staff required:*

TBD depending on number of Students – optimal ratio is 1 Instructor per no more than 12 Students

*Instructor Qualifications:*

Instructors must have completed the Global Biorisk Management Curriculum (GBRMC) orientation, including this course, and be enrolled in the GBRMC training network.

## Learning Environment

*Media:*

Instructor-led course.

## Exercises & Activities

*Experience (Activists)*

Students will be asked to consider their experiences in regard to writing biorisk management policy and if any of their past experience included in implementing policies at the facility

*Reflection (Reflectors)*

Students will be asked to reflect on those experiences to help develop a model how they would review a research project; Students will be asked to reflect on the next steps for working towards writing a policy

*Models (Theorists)*

Students will be introduced to a real world scenario in which a review was completed in which they can analyze the situations and evaluate how the process was undertaken

*Practice (Pragmatists)*

Students will be given the real world scenario as a case study to see how the topics discussed are practiced in real life

## On-Site Specifics

*Location*

TBD

*Room organization*

Clusters of tables to facilitate small group (no more than 5 Students per group)

*Dress code and/or important cultural considerations*

TBD

## Instructional Materials

*Equipment & Supplies*

Large flip charts  
Markers (enough for up to 5 groups plus instructor(s))  
6 x 8 inch Post-it notes (no lines)  
Student binders (1" or less) and tabs  
Pens  
Laptop computer with powerpoint files loaded  
Projector



Easels (1 per group)  
Name tags/lanyards or Tent Cards  
Certificates  
Notepads

***Student  
Handouts***

Course agenda and schedule  
Student notes  
Glossary  
CWA 15793  
Hippocratic Oath

**Resources**

***Dependencies***

***Authorities***


***References***

CWA 15793  
CEN WS 55, 53  
WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual  
Laboratory Biosecurity Handbook  
IBTR Training – Information Security and MC&A (SAND No. 2004-4555P, SAND No. 2005-3288 C)  
DTRA BSL-2 Training – Hazard Criteria and Categorization  
DTRA BSL-3 Training – Bioethics and Biosecurity  
CDC/WHO Laboratory Quality Management System Training Toolkit  
Biosecurity Plan template (in development)  
Glossary of terms (in development)

***Terms used in this  
document***

- Knowledge – remembering the material in the same form as it was taught
- Comprehension – student’s ability to understand the material by (for example) explaining or summarizing key messages
- Application – ability to use the material in a new or given situation
- Synthesis – ability to put together learning material in a new whole entirety. For example, using the material to create a new program or plan.
- Evaluation – ability to judge the value of the material presented as a peer (to be able to critically advise or judge others on their application and synthesis of this learning material).
- Novice – a person who is new to the circumstances, work, etc. in which s/he is placed; beginner
- Practitioner – a person engaged in the practice of a profession; a person who practices something specified
- Expert – a person who has special skill or knowledge in some particular field; specialist; authority; trained by practice
- Education – the act of acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as for a profession
- Expertise – the process of personally observing, encountering or





undergoing something; knowledge or practical wisdom gained from what one has observed, encountered, or undergone

- Competence – Possession of a suitable or sufficient skill, knowledge, experience, etc. for some specified purpose; properly qualified

## Part II: Course Outline/Schedule

[illegible]

KM = key messages ; T/F = teaching versus facilitation (instructor-based versus learner-based)



