

## **DEVELOPING A HEALTH PROFESSIONS PORTFOLIO**

*Professor: Melvin James, Ph.D.*

Hi. I'm Dr. James. I want to welcome you to the course, Developing the Health Professions Portfolio. You have chosen this class because you plan to apply to either medical, dental, optometry school sometime soon. And the purpose of this class is to really help you have a very complete, accurate, and impressive application and portfolio.

My background, I have a degree in chemistry and biology. So actually I've taught chemistry and biology at the college level for a number of years. And then I moved into clinical counseling. So I have a Ph.D. in counselor education from the University of Florida. I have taught in counselor education here at USF. I teach social sciences. I teach in the honors college. And altogether had several years of teaching at the elementary level, middle school level, undergrad level, and certain grad levels.

Usually my teaching style is very Socratic. That means I like to ask a lot of questions to make you think at a cognitive level. In this course, I really want to help you become reflective. Again, your application needs to show that you've been focusing on the different issues, whether it's your interview, whether it's your personal statements. So a reflective approach.

So I want you to really give as much time and effort to this course itself. It's an elective course, but it's a very important class. When you complete this course at the end of the semester, you'll have two things. You'll have a complete portfolio developed, but also your application will also be completed.

I can assure you that over the years I've been doing this that less than 1% of all students at USF have a complete application by the time the portals open. And of course, the earlier that you apply, the much better your chances of being successful. So you're going to be way ahead of all the students at USF right now, because by the time you end the semester, you'll walk away with a complete application, just waiting for the date for the admission portals to open, and then to submit them.

It's going to be a fun semester. It's going to be quite a bit of work. But eventually you're going to have something that you can be very proud of. You're going to have a complete application, you're going to have an accurate application, and an impressive application. Thank you so much.