

Syllabus for HIMT 365

Healthcare Economics

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the structure of health care markets in the United States. You will evaluate the impact of the health care system in the United States on the competing goals of broad access, high quality, and affordability. You will also identify how consumers and providers respond to changes in incentives, and develop an appreciation for opposing views on health care reform. Topics covered include: supply and demand modeling; cost-benefit analysis; the role of private and government health insurance; physician, hospital, long-term care, and pharmaceutical markets; and implications of the Affordable Care Act. Learning resources such as lectures, readings, and assessments are sequenced and organized to support authentic learning.

The course consists of four units with three to six lessons each.

Prerequisites: None

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to do the following:

- Describe the institutional structure of health care markets in the United States.
- Analyze how health care outcomes are influenced by changing market forces, social forces, and government forces.
- Explain how the provision and use of medical care are influenced by traditional insurance, cost-sharing measures, managed care restrictions, and consumer-driven health plans.
- Explain how government insurance programs affect participants, medical providers, and private insurance markets.
- Describe the different types of medical care data and how those measurements are driven by reimbursement and quality measurement needs.
- Evaluate the impact of health care reform from both the free-market and government-interventionist perspectives.
- Explain the impact of the major elements of the Affordable Care Act.

HIM Curriculum Competencies

While not addressing any competencies directly, the course provides critical foundation knowledge for the program's management courses and prepares students for health care management and administration courses at the master's degree level.

Course Materials

Course Activities and Assessments

You will be asked to read chapters from your textbook, view the instructor's lecture videos (commentaries), participate in discussions, and complete quizzes and practice exercises.

Discussions

Your first discussion assignment will be to introduce yourself to your fellow classmates. Other discussions will ask you to answer specific questions or offer you an opportunity to review a unit's content in preparation for a unit exam.

All discussions are completed in the discussion area of the course. Each discussion assignment requires one original post and two reply posts.

Introductions

Since we won't get to meet face-to-face, please tell the class a little bit about yourself. Some information that you might want to share would include, for example, where you are living, where you work, why you are taking this class, your favorite sports or hobbies, etc. I put my post in first if you'd like to view that.

Since other students will be able to view your post, please don't feel obliged to share anything you would like to keep private.

In order to identify posts easily, please use your name on the subject line.

Review Discussions

Each of the four units in the course has a review discussion. In each of these, you are expected to post one unique question that you would like clarified, after completing the readings and working through the self-study questions. In addition to your original question, you are also expected to try to answer two questions posed by other students.

For each unit discussion, you will receive 15 participation points for posting a unique question (no points for questions too similar to those already posted) and up to 10 participation points (5 points for each of the two required responses) for answers posted to others' questions that add value to the discussion. You should feel free to post more than one question and answer more than two questions, though only one original question and two responses are required to receive full credit.

All postings should be prepared in a professional, academic manner in order to receive full credit.

Please do not attach files to the discussion area. Rather, I would encourage you to prepare your postings using a word-processing program and then cut and paste your work into the body of the posting. This will make it easier to access the postings and provide you with a backup file in case there is a technical problem that causes you to lose your work.

Practice Exercises

In the practice exercises, your instructor will present a number of exercises, give you some time to work through them yourself, and then offer solutions. The practice exercises will be needed to prepare for quiz and exam questions; not doing them will cause you to do poorly on those assignments.

Quizzes

The quizzes can be found in the Quizzes area in this course.

Exams

The four exams in this course will consist of essay questions, which will be made available during the semester in the Content area. You will submit your responses to the Dropbox.

For Exams 1, 2, and 3, you will be allowed two attempts. After you submit your first attempt, your instructor will provide you with feedback. You will then get a chance to improve your work and submit a second attempt.

Course Outline

- Lesson 1: Introduction to Health Economics
- Lessons 2a-f: Demand; Supply; Market Equilibrium; Elasticity; Market Efficiency; Practice Exercises
- Lesson 3: Market Inefficiencies
- Lesson 4: Review
- Lesson 5 a-c: Cost-Benefit Analysis; Value of Life; Cost Effectiveness Analysis
- Lesson 6: Review and Exam Unit 2
- Lesson 7: Insurance Basics
- Lessons 8 a-e: Employer-Sponsored Insurance; Cost Sharing; Managed Care; Medicare and Medicaid; The Uninsured
- Lesson 9: Quiz
- Lesson 10: Review and Exam
- Lesson 11: Physician Fees
- Lesson 12: Hospital Reimbursement
- Lesson 13: Review and Exam
- Lesson 14: Healthcare Reform

- Lesson 15: Review and Exam

Course Policies

Class Participation

Some assignments in this course require that you read each other's work and post a peer reply. Please do not read the work of other students prior to posting your original or first post on any assignment. The reason for this is to encourage original thought and creativity and to avoid what is known as group think. In group think students seem to follow along with the first posts and reply similarly; this puts an undue responsibility on the person who had the courage to post first, and it may actually reduce the quality of your post if you structure yours like others already there. It is required that you view other students' postings in order to post your peer replies. The instructor reserves the right to grade students differently based on their participation in discussions and their failure to post their work prior to viewing the work of peers.

Late Assignment Submission

Late submission of assignments is discouraged. The instructor reserves the right to take partial or full points off for late assignments. If you are going to be away, it is suggested you get the assignments done and posted ahead of time to avoid losing points for late submissions.

Time Commitment

For each course credit, you are expected to spend a minimum of 3 hours/week on course work. Therefore, for a four-credit course, at least 12 hours/week are expected. This is a general guideline which may vary depending on the assignments and/or quizzes.

Grading

This is how the required work in the course will be graded:

Discussions: 6 @ 25 points	150
Quizzes: 6 @ 25 points (lowest quiz dropped)	150
Exams: 4 @ 100 points	400
Total Points	700

Grading Scale

Percentage Range	Grade	Points
90–100%	A	630–700

80–89.9%	B	560–629
70–79.9%	C	490–559
60–69.9%	D	420–489
0–59.9%	F	0–419

Course Calendar

Assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. (CST) unless noted otherwise.

Unit/Lesson	Activity	Due Date
Unit 1: Economic Tools		
Lesson 1: Introduction to Health Economics	Discussion (Introductions)	Sunday, 9/11
Lessons 2a–f: Demand, Supply, Market Equilibrium, Elasticity, and Market Efficiency	Practice Exercises	
Lesson 3: Market Inefficiencies	Quiz 1	Wednesday, 9/21, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 9/25, 11:59 p.m.
Lesson 4: Cost-Benefit and Cost Effectiveness Analysis	Discussion	First post: Thursday, 9/29, two (2) follow-up posts: Sunday, 10/2
Lessons 5a–c: Cost-Benefit Analysis, The Value of Life, and Cost Effectiveness Analysis	Quiz 2	Wednesday, 10/5, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 10/9, 11:59 p.m.
Lesson 6: Exam 1	Unit 1 Review Discussion	First post: Monday, 10/10, two (2) follow-up posts: Wednesday, 10/12
	Exam 1	Thursday, 10/13, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 10/16, 11:59 p.m.
Unit 2: Health Insurance		
Lesson 7: Insurance Basics	Quiz 3	Wednesday, 10/19, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 10/23, 11:59 p.m.
Lessons 8a–e: Employer-Sponsored Insurance, Cost Sharing, Managed Care, Medicare and Medicaid, and The Uninsured		
Lesson 9: Health Insurance	Quiz 4	Wednesday, 11/2, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 11/6, 11:59 p.m.
Lesson 10: Exam 2	Unit 2 Review Discussion	First post: Monday, 11/7, two (2) follow-up posts: Wednesday, 11/9
	Exam 2	Thursday, 11/10, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 11/13, 11:59 p.m.
Unit 3: Provider Markets		

Lesson 11: Physician Services	Quiz 5	Wednesday, 11/16, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 11/20, 11:59 p.m.
Thanksgiving Week		
Lesson 12: Hospital Services	Quiz 6	Wednesday, 11/30, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 12/4, 11:59 p.m.
Lesson 13: Exam 3	Unit 3 Review Discussion	First post: Monday, 12/5, two (2) follow-up posts: Wednesday, 12/7
	Exam 3	Thursday, 12/8, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 12/11, 11:59 p.m.
Unit 4: Healthcare Reform		
Lesson 14: National Health Plans	Quiz 7	Wednesday, 12/14, 8 a.m., through Sunday, 12/18, 11:59 p.m.
Lesson 15: Exam 4	Unit 4 Review Discussion	First post: Monday, 12/19, two (2) follow-up posts: Wednesday, 12/21
	Exam 4	Thursday, 12/22, 8 a.m., through Friday, 12/23, 11:59 p.m. Note the end date falls on a Friday.