Iran University of Medical Sciences
School of Nursing & Midwifery

Health Policy and Health Economics Course plan

Course outline

Course title: Health Policy and Health Economics
Program: Master's in Nursing Management
Course Type: Theoretical (1.5 credits), practical(1 credit)
Instructors: Dr. Sharifian & Dr. Safari
Department: Nursing Management
Prerequisites: Strategic and Operational Planning – Human Resource Management

Course Purpose

This course introduces students to the main concepts of health policy and health economics, existing challenges in health economics, innovative approaches, and effective solutions—especially in the field of nursing—to promote health in the 21st century. It also aims to develop an understanding of the efficiency and effectiveness of health system services within nursing.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Explain the concepts of health, health systems, goals and functions of health systems, and determinants of health.
- Identify and classify health services and their levels.
- Understand the differences between economic growth and development and propose development strategies.
- Define policy and policymaking, and distinguish between law, policy, and programs.
- Identify stakeholders and decision-making bodies in the health system and describe their roles.
- Explain the stages of policymaking, including formulation, implementation, analysis, and evaluation.
- Describe the policymaking process in Iran, health policy councils, nursing policy, and insurance policymaking.
- Explain pharmaceutical policies in Iran.
- Understand the foundations of health economics and apply economic principles to health.
- Explain the relationship between health and economic growth and propose financing strategies.
- Understand demand, need, and want; health market characteristics; supply and demand; and equity in health.
- Describe healthcare financing methods and their advantages and disadvantages.

- Identify private sector participation and privatization models and explain supervision mechanisms.
- Apply economic evaluation methods and perform cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Explain different payment systems and analyze their advantages and disadvantages.
- Identify global and national challenges in health economics and the role of youth in promoting health economics.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- Prepare in advance according to the course schedule.
- Use updated scientific resources and research findings with proper referencing.
- Attend classes regularly and actively participate in discussions.
- Submit assignments on time and attend examinations.
- Absence without valid justification in exams will result in a zero grade.
- Absences should not exceed the allowed limit; otherwise, consequences apply.

Teaching Methods

Depending on the format (in-person, virtual, or blended), the course may include:

- Interactive lectures (Q&A, quizzes, group discussions)
- Problem-Based Learning (PBL)
- Scenario-Based Learning
- Peer teaching

Student Responsibilities

- Regular attendance and active participation (Absences must not exceed 25% of total class hours)
- Timely completion of assignments
- Use of up-to-date academic and research sources
- Engagement in classroom discussions and assessments

Evaluation Methods

- **Formative Assessment:** 30% (summarizing two related articles, final class activity on effective meeting management)
- **Summative Assessment:** 60% (final written exam)
- **Participation & Attendance:** 10% (5% for active discussion, 5% for presence)
- Assessment types may include written tests (multiple choice, true/false, open-ended), structured clinical exams (OSCE, OSLE), and workplace-based evaluations (logbooks, portfolios, DOPS).
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Recommended Resources

1. Mason, j. Gardner, B. Outlaw m F. O'Grady,T. 2020. Policy and Politics in Nursing and Healthcare. (8th Edition). Elsevier. (The main reference).
2. Goudreau K. A. and Smolensky M. C. 2018. Health Policy and Advanced Practice Nursing: Impact and Implications. 2nd Ed. Springer publishing company
3. Folland, Sh. Goodman A C. & Stano M. (2017) the Economics of Health and Health Care. 8th Edition. London & New York: Routledge
4. Rambur, B. (2015) Health Care Finance, Economics, and Policy for Nurses: A Foundational Guide. Springer publishing Company.
5. Olsen JA. (2017) Principles in Health Economics and Policy. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press.
6. Finkelman, Anita Ward (2019). Leadership and management for nurses. 4th Ed. USA: Pearson Education, Inc .
7. Huber, Diane. (2017) Leadership and nursing care management. 6th Ed. Elsevier, USA.
8. Marquis, B. L., Hustone, C.J. (2017) Leadership roles and management functions in nursing. 9th Ed
9. Murray, Elizabeth J., (2017). Nursing Leadership and Management. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company.
10. Sullivan, E.J. (2017) Effective Leadership and Management in Nursing. 9th Ed. New York: Pearson Education International.
11. Yoder-Wise Patricia S. (2015) Leading and Managing in Nursing. 6th Ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Mosby, an imprint of Elsevier Inc.
12. JoAnn Zerwekh, Ashley Garneau Nursing Today (2015): Transition and Trends . 8th Edition
13. Journal of Health Economics: www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-health-economics
14. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy: link.springer.com/journal/40258
15. Health Economics, Policy and Law: www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law
16. Developments in Health Economics and Public Policy: https://www.springer.com/series/6039
17. journal of Nursing management: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/
18. Journal of Nursing Administration (JONA): https://journals.lww.com/jonajournal/pages/default.aspx
19. Nursing Administration Quarterly: https://journals.lww.com/naqjournal/pages/default.aspx

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Course Calendar: Health Policy and Health Economics

Class Time:

Session	Topic & Learning Activities	Teaching Method	Date	Instructor(s)
1	Introduction to the course, health concepts, primary health care, and social determinants	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Sharifian
2	Introduction to health economics	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Sharifian
3	The health market: concepts of demand, supply, need, and want; characteristics of the health market; and equity and justice in health.	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Sharifian
4	Economic analysis in health: health outcomes for evaluation; different methods of economic evaluation; and cost-effectiveness analysis.	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Sharifian
5	Financing in the health system: financing methods; advantages and disadvantages of each method; costs and their role in decision-making and planning; allocation of costs to programs and activities	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
٦	Payment systems and various payment methods in the health system; their advantages and disadvantages; and payment methods in developed and developing countries	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
7	The concept of policy and policymaking; historical background and terminology; and organizations and decision-making authorities within the health system.	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
8	The policymaking process and the health policy council in the health system and in nursing (1)	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
9	The policymaking process and the health policy council in the health system and in nursing (2)	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
10	Pharmaceutical policies in Iran: analysis of successes and failures	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
11	Insurance system policies in Iran: analysis of successes and failures	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari
12	Methods of policy analysis	Lecture & Group Discussion		Dr. Safari