



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health University of Arizona

PHPM 507 Health Care Economics and Policy

Catalog Description: Health policy is examined from an economic perspective. Basic economic theories and their relationships to the structure and function of the U.S. health care system are explored. Alternative health care systems and health care reforms are also evaluated. Graduate-level requirements include more weekly writing assignments and a major paper demonstrating independent research, integrate and analyze data related to a contemporary problem of health care delivery or financing. (3 units)

Course Topics:

- Economics
- Regulatory Capture, Health Care Costs
- Health, Rationing
- Price Controls, Medicare
- Medicaid, Physician Services
- Insurance, The Uninsured, Cross Subsidies
- Competition, Drug Prices, Drug Shortages

Course Objectives:

During this course, students will:

- Explain how economic theory predicts the supply, demand and consumption of health care.
- Describe the relationship between providers of insurance, its regulation and health care spending.
- Understand the concept of market failure, its role in justifying the public sector and recognize ubiquitous regulatory capture in health care.
- Work backward from an existing public sector participation in health care to determine the market failure that prompted public sector involvement.
- Work forward from a market failure in health care to predict the resulting regulatory capture.

Learning Outcomes (Competencies Obtained):

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
2. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
3. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
4. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
5. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health
6. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
7. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
8. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
9. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations

10. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
11. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue