

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
HSA6126 U.S. Health Insurance System (3)
Semester: Spring 2015
Delivery Format: On-Campus

Instructor Name: Daniel Estrada, PhD, MBA, MHS
Room Number: HPNP G307
Tuesdays: Periods 5 & 6, 11:45am – 1:40pm, G307
Thursdays: Period 6, 12:50pm – 1:40pm, G307
Phone Number: 352-642-3968
Email Address: estrada@phhp.ufl.edu
Office Hours: by appt

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

Determining the optimum combination of mechanisms by which our society and its members can pay for health care has been an enduring element of our national health policy conversation for more than a hundred years. And it can be found in the historical record of other cultures for more than a millennium. It is an area that encompasses (a) an ongoing philosophical conversation about the nature of health care and related fiscal considerations; and (b) a much more pragmatic set of conversations reflecting premiums, payments and processes as they are currently operative. Hence some of our conversations will be quite theoretical and abstract, while others will be much more detailed and factual in their objective.

This course is a description and analysis of the U.S. health insurance system. Specific topics include private vs. public insurers, demand for health insurance, health plan types and characteristics, premium setting, and reimbursement of health providers.

Relation to Program Outcomes

Course Objectives and/or Goals

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to

1. Describe the extent and nature of health insurance coverage in the United States;
2. Identify distinguishing characteristics of suppliers of health insurance;
3. Enumerate and evaluate the salient characteristics of a health plan;
4. Explain the process by which insurers set premiums;
5. Compare various methods by which health plans reimburse providers of health services; and
6. Analyze the likely effects of proposed policy changes related to health insurance.

#	Course Objective	Competencies		Assessment
1	Describe the extent and nature of health insurance coverage in the United States	HEC-0	<i>Analyze, synthesize and act on key trends, activities, and government policies in the health care environment</i>	Midterm/Final,
		HEC-2	<i>Interpret, monitor, and comply with laws and regulations that protect health practitioners, organizations, and the public.</i>	Midterm/Final,
2	Identify distinguishing characteristics of suppliers of health insurance	HOP-2	<i>Incorporate evidenced-based approaches and external assessments in the design and implementation of programs that improve community health, and organizational, financial and clinical performance</i>	Midterm/Final,
		HEC-0	<i>Analyze, synthesize and act on key trends, activities, and government policies in the health care environment</i>	Midterm/Final
3	Enumerate and evaluate the salient characteristics of a health plan	HOP-2	<i>Incorporate evidenced-based approaches and external assessments in the design and implementation of programs that improve community health, and organizational, financial and clinical performance</i>	Midterm/Final,
4	Explain the process by which insurers set premiums.	BAT-2	<i>Assess multiple dimensions of financial performance to measure and improve the financial viability of provider organizations.</i>	Midterm/Final,
5	Compare various methods by which health plans reimburse providers of health services	HOP-1	Propose, develop, and implement strategic approaches based on statistical, quantitative, and qualitative evaluations of clinical, financial, and	Midterm/Final

			organizational performance	
6	Analyze the likely effects of proposed policy changes related to health insurance	HEC-0	Analyze, synthesize, and act on key trends, activities, and government policies in the health care environment	Midterm/Final

Strategy to meet the course objectives: Assessment of the degree to which course objectives and competencies are achieved will be by means of

- Two exams
- Paper and presentation
- Class attendance, preparation, and participation

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Topic(s)	Readings
1	1/5/15	Introduction/Syllabus	
2	1/12/15	Intro to Insurance Concepts	Kongstvedt/External readings
3	1/19/15	Intro to Managed Care Organizations	Kongstvedt/External readings
4	1/26/15	Network Contracting	Kongstvedt/External readings
5	2/2/15	Network Contracting	Kongstvedt/External readings
6	2/9/15	Provider Reimbursement	Kongstvedt/External readings
7	2/16/15	Provider Reimbursement	Kongstvedt/External readings
8	2/23/15	Utilization Management	Kongstvedt/External readings
9	3/9/15	Utilization Management	Kongstvedt/External readings
10	3/16/15	Quality Management	Kongstvedt/External readings
11	3/23/15	Health Insurance Operations	Kongstvedt/External readings
12	3/30/15	Health Insurance Operations	Kongstvedt/External readings
13	4/6/15	Individual Presentations	
14	4/13/15	Individual Presentations	
15	4/20/15	Individual Presentations	

Course Materials and Technology

Essentials of Managed Care – Kongstvedt

Reading as assigned.

Other materials available through canvas: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments/*Tentative Schedule*

The course will be broken up into 4 modules that mirrors the textbook.

1. Intro to Health Insurance and Managed Care
2. Network Contracting and Provider
3. Utilization Management and Quality
4. Health Insurance Operations

Grading

Requirement	% of final grade
Class Participation	10%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Term Paper	20%
Term Paper Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Total Points (of 100)	Grade Points	Grade
95 or more	4.0	A
90-94	3.67	A-
87 - 89	3.33	B+
83-86	3.0	B
80 – 82	2.67	B-
77-79	2.33	C+
73-76	2.0	C
70-72	1.67	C-
67-69	1.33	D+
63-66	1.0	D
60-62	.67	D-
Below 60	0	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. In addition, a grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Exam Policy

Exams will be delivered in the assigned time. Communication of issues is expected at least two weeks prior.

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Make up work is at the discretion of the instructor and will only be offered under valid conditions and with advance coordination with the instructor.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

It is expected that you will attend, prepare for, and participate in all class sessions. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis and should be addressed as soon as possible.

All faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Some use of tablets or laptops may be appropriate, but is generally discouraged.

Communication Guidelines

Students will be expected to communicate with the instructor via official ufl email address. In the case of emergency, direct phone contact either via call or text is appropriate.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
 Alachua County Crisis Center
 (352) 264-6789
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.
