HCM550: Healthcare Policy Analysis and Development

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Course Description and Outcomes

Course Description:
This course introduces and examines methods for assuring quality in policy, process, and outcome management, as well as the significance and statistical application of measuring outcomes. The healthcare policies and changing trends are identified and analyzed.

Course Overview:
This course looks at healthcare policy development and analysis from a variety of perspectives. You will learn about the analysis process, as well as health policy values and frameworks. You’ll explore various government health policy options and examine strategies and policies for reducing healthcare spending. You’ll gain an understanding of the historical perspective on how we got to where we are now, including the origins of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. You’ll examine healthcare quality as it relates to policy. The course concludes with an exploration of the role of leadership in guiding healthcare organizations.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Articulate and demonstrate an understanding of healthcare policy and politics in the United States, Canada, and the European Union.
2. Define the important concepts, theories, laws, and literature that impact public opinion and policy within the healthcare environment.
3. Analyze the political dimensions of an area of national healthcare policy and project its impact over the next five years.
4. Outline the health policy process at both the state and national levels in areas associated with research, funding, and delivery.

Participation & Attendance
Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

### Course Materials

Textbook Information is located in the CSU-Global Booklist on the Student Portal.

### Course Schedule

**Due Dates**
The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- Discussion Boards: The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and Peer Responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- Critical Thinking: Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3 in <em>Health Policymaking in the United States</em></td>
<td>Discussion (25 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chapter 6 in <em>Health Policymaking in the United States</em></td>
<td>Discussion (25 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (110 points)


• Discussion (25 points)

• Critical Thinking (110 points)

---

• Chapter 9 and Appendix 4 in *Health Policymaking in the United States*


• Discussion (25 points)

• Critical Thinking (120 points)


Appendices 2 and 3 in *Health Policymaking in the United States*


Baicker, K. et al. (2013). Public financing of the Medicare program will make its uniform structure increasingly costly to sustain. *Health Affairs, 32*(5), 882-890.


Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (110 points)


Assignment Details

This course includes the following assignments/projects:

**Module 3**

**CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (110 Points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1: Measuring the U.S. Health Care System: A Cross National Comparison**
Review the required reading and compare with data from the most current year. Prepare a paper that meets or exceeds the following requirements:

- Using current data, determine whether or not the United States still has the highest level of spending among OECD countries. Discuss trends in data concerning spending and determine if rates are higher or lower.
- Discuss the impact of technology and its relationship to spending in the United States vs. health outcomes.
- Support and justify your opinions with credible reference sources. Include three to five peer-reviewed articles as reference sources.

**Assignment Required Reading:**

Your paper should include the following:

- Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Three to five references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old.)
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
- Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

**Option #2: Value Driven Health Care**

Review the required readings for this module and research the peer reviewed literature regarding price transparency and value-driven health care. Complete the following:

- Search for a new primary care physician where you live. Describe in depth how you made your physician choice. What impact did price have on your decision making? What were the key factors that factored into your decision making?
- Search for pricing for an MRI for a 13-year-old female patient complaining of headaches. Determine the cost of this procedure to you and what the cost is to the insurance provider. Do a price comparison against three other facilities offering the same service. Provide a chart that summarizes the price differences.
- Reflect on your experience and summarize the following: 1. How long did this take? How comfortable would you be if you actually had to purchase these services in determining the value for services? i.e., How do you know what you received was worth the money you paid? Comment on your experiences in finding the information.

Your paper should include the following:

- Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Three to five references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old.)
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
- Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.
Module 4

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (110 Points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Case Study – How Colorado, Minnesota and Vermont Are Reforming Care Delivery and Payment to Improve Health and Lower Costs

Assignment Required Reading:

Review the case study by clicking on the link. Prepare a paper that answers the following questions.

- What specific payment and delivery system reforms should greatest promise or positive results in your state? Why?
- What challenges is your state and community facing and how can the federal government help address or mitigate those challenges?
- What early lessons can be learned from these experiences that can help the federal government design or modify programs and supports to encourage, replicate, and expand comprehensive health care reform?

Your paper should include the following:

- Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Three to five peer reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
- Formatted according to CSU-GLOBAL Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

Option #2: Case Study – Hill Physicians

Assignment Required Reading:

Review the case study by clicking on the link. Prepare a paper that answers the following questions.

- Are the innovations discussed in this case study replicable in 2016? Why or Why Not?
- Do financial incentives for physicians result in improved quality? How do you know?
- What early lessons can be learned from these experiences that can help the federal government design or modify programs and supports to encourage, replicate, and expand comprehensive health care reform?

Your paper should include the following:

- Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Three to five peer reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
• Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
• Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

Module 5

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (120 Points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Health Insurance

Prepare a paper that addresses the following issues.

• Evaluate the main strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. health care system.
• What should the U.S. health care system look like?

Your paper should include the following:

• Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
• Three to five peer reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
• Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
• Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

Option #2: Literature Review

Assignment Required Reading:

Prepare a paper that answers the following question.

• With the implementation of PPACA and what you read from the Peter Urbel’s article, is there sufficient evidence to conclude that Employer-Based Health Insurance will cease?
• Be sure to discuss the advantages and disadvantages to group insurance in the employment based setting. Your discussion should address the concepts of adverse selection, moral hazard and uncertainty.

Your paper should include the following:

• Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
• Three to five peer reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ, Washington Post should also be considered.)
• Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
• Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.
Module 6

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (110 Points)
Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Case Study – Health Share of Oregon: A Community-Oriented Approach to Accountable Care for Medicaid Beneficiaries

Assignment Required Reading:

Review the case study by clicking on the link. Prepare a paper that answers the following questions.

- What is an accountable care organization (ACO’s)?
- What makes Oregon unique in its approach to Coordinated Care Organization?
- Why are states experimenting with different models of integrated care?
- Are ACO’s a viable model to reduce the rate of growth in per-capita Medicaid spending? Why or why not?

Your paper should include the following:

- Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Three to five peer reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
- Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

Option #2: Case Study – Health Care Payment and Delivery Reform in Minnesota Medicaid

Assignment Required Reading:

Review the case study by clicking on the link. Prepare a paper that answers the following questions.

- What is an accountable care organization (ACO’s)?
- What makes Minnesota unique in terms of a model for health system reform?
- Why are states experimenting with different models of integrated care?
- Are ACO’s a viable model to reduce the rate of growth in per-capita Medicaid spending? Why or why not?

Your paper should include the following:

- Four to six pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Three to five peer reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
- Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

Module 8

PORTFOLIO PROJECT (350 points)

Option #1: Health Policy Issues Paper

Each student should (a) select a topic such as those presented below and identify an existing federal health policy problem in that area, (b) analyze the role of research information in reshaping that policy, and (c) propose changes/improvements in the existing Public Law dealing with that policy or propose a new one. This should result in a twelve- to fifteen-page, double-spaced written paper. A good starting point is to analyze a current issue pertinent to PPACA.

Sample Portfolio Topics:

A. Long-Term Care
B. Health Care Costs
C. Access to Care
D. Quality of Care
E. Obesity Epidemics/ Pandemics
F. Health Insurance

Your paper should include the following:

• Twelve to fifteen pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
• Five to eight peer-reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old; additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
• Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
• Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

Option #2: Health Policy Case Study

Read the following case study: The Triple Aim Journey: Improving Population Health and Patients’ Experience of Care, While Reducing Costs

Assignment Required Reading:

Prepare a paper that discusses the following questions.

• What is the Triple Aim and why is it so difficult to implement?
• Why should health care organizations deliver health care with a focus on population health? (make sure you define population health)
• Explain how the Triple Aim attempts to “bend the cost curve” as it relates to the case study.
• Provide an example of an organization that is successfully implementing the Triple Aim in their community. What were the measures they used to define success? Are these models replicable to all communities throughout the United States? Why or Why not?
Your paper should include the following:

- Twelve to fifteen pages in length, not including the title and reference pages.
- Five to eight peer-reviewed references cited in the assignment. Remember, you must support your thinking/opinions and prior knowledge with references; all facts must be supported; in-text references used throughout the assignment must be included in an APA-formatted reference list. (References should be current, not more than five years old, additional references articles from the popular press such as the WSJ and Washington Post should also be considered.)
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Course Information page.
- Formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- Reach out to your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

### Course Policies

#### Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation  
45% Critical Thinking Assignments  
35% Final Portfolio Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95.0 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0 – 94.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.7 – 89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.3 – 86.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0 – 83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75.0 – 79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0 – 74.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 – 69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### In-Classroom Policies

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

#### Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /re-purposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

#### Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions on your course’s Assignments page.

#### Disability Services Statement
CSU–Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Netiquette**
Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom.

If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.