

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY- BOZEMAN  
COLLEGE OF NURSING  
Master Resource Outline

N 418: Issues in Health Policy & Health Care Economics  
Credits: 2 credits (1 lec; 1 seminar)  
Semesters offered: F. Sp  
Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Focus is on economics, public policy and political factors which affect the delivery of health and nursing care at the local, state, national and international levels. Students are encouraged to participate in efforts to influence health policy.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze the disparities in health care based on economics, social or demographic status.
2. Examine the mechanism of health care financing and their influences on policies.
3. Identify economic, public policy and political factors influencing the delivery of care.
4. Analyze the legislative and regulatory processes as they relate to health policy.
5. Integrate advocacy skills in the influence of public policy.
6. Describe strategies that nurses can use to create or influence health policy.
7. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability reflecting professional values.

Recommended Concepts and Content:

Health Care Reimbursement System

Public and private insurance processes (Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, third-party payers, HMO's such as Kaiser, Humana), payment mechanisms (capitation, third party payer, DRG's), relationship between health policy and economics, how insurance works to pay for care (concepts—deductible, co-pays, premiums, etc) , factors impacting the site pools, cost of insurance, decision-making on covered benefits).

Advocacy:

Role of advocate in development of public policy and economics of health care systems, skills set, communication, relationship of professional values to, boundaries (i.e. public safety vs. individual choice)

Legislative process:

Use of the nurse practice act to demonstrate levels of the legislative process such as statute, rules; strategies to use in the legislative process; analyze the intent of legislation; program development related to rules and statutes.

Health Care Policy:

Relationship to budgeting and program development; program evaluation and cost effectiveness of care to support ongoing programs to the legislature ( ex. tobacco fund monies etc); effect of policy on international health

## Delivery of health and nursing care in the Global Community

Global influences (burden of disease) and responses: frameworks for cooperation and/or collaboration; organizations for international health (governmental and non-governmental); humanitarian efforts (Doctors w/o borders); impact of war on health, economy, policy and culture.

### Examples of Learning Activities:

Evaluation of health insurance policy/ies

Cost analysis of health insurance policies

DRG's implications on a client cared for in clinical setting—length of stay vs. client need for care

Select a bill in legislature to follow (including legislative process, writing a letter of testimony, visiting a hearing on that bill or another bill)

Attend a State Board of Nursing meeting

Attend a public hearing on rules and regulations.

Systematically examine the origins of a national health policy and its commensurate impact on patients (e.g., social security, medicare).

Track the Internet pages of Montana's U.S. Senators or Representative to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how legislation is introduced and debated.

Call a member of the Montana State Legislature to discuss a health-related issue.

Track international effects of chronic conditions or disease.

Respond to (Internet) scenarios related to global burden of disease from perspective of women, men and children living in developed/underdeveloped country.

Updated and approved by UAAC: April 2007

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