



Course Name: Budgeting for Better Health: Understanding Healthcare Treatment Costs

Course Directors:

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Course Description:

This course is designed to help future physicians develop a holistic perspective of a variety of patient perspectives. This course will cover the basic medical costs that are associated with various procedures, the role that insurance plays in medical costs, the impact of healthcare costs on patient health, and the contrast between healthcare facilities and patient care. Our goal is to inform medical students of the healthcare system that currently is in place, challenge them to evaluate the roles and responsibilities that financials have on patient health and develop problem-solving skills to reduce healthcare costs. Content will be delivered in person with faculty from several departments within the TTUHSC and from the community in a lecture-based format, with the ability to switch to a virtual modality. A pass/fail grade will be assigned to students based on completing the course requirements: meeting attendance, course surveys, and a final paper.

Course Prerequisite:

There are no prerequisites required, yet students must submit an application to participate in this elective.

Semester Offered:

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

Max Enrollment:

40 Students

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand health insurance in the US, including the differences between Medicare/Medicaid and private insurance from both a patient and physician perspective.
2. Learn ways physicians can assist patients in accomplishing their healthcare goals within the patient's budget.
3. Discuss how to improve healthcare cost disparities.
4. Educate future physicians on various diagnostic procedure costs and learn how to reduce total healthcare expenses.
5. Explore programs currently available that can assist patients with healthcare costs and access.
6. Discuss how income and healthcare disparities affect different patient populations.
7. Learn how medical costs can affect a patient's overall health.

Course Format:

This course will consist of in-person lectures with required pre- and post-surveys. If a guest speaker is unable to present in person, the lecture may be moved to Zoom. Students will also be required to write a short (half-paged) statement reflecting on their experience in the elective at the end of the course.

Course Material:

[The Price We Pay by Marty Makary](#) (optional)

Attendance:

Students will be expected to attend all lectures, but students may miss up to 2 elective meetings unexcused; however, if accommodations are made a minimum of one (1) week prior, students will be provided with an alternative writing assignment.

Grading: Pass/Fail; at least an 80% is required to receive credit.

Grading Component	Contribution to Final Grade
Attendance	80%
Pre- and Post-survey (required for course credit)	10%
Final Paper (required for course credit)	10%

Schedule:

Date	Time	Topic	Speaker	Location	Lunch?
August 28th, 2024	12-1 PM	Course Intro: Medicare, Medicaid, and Private Insurance Overview	Dr. Brent Magers	ACB 220	
September 25th, 2024	12-1 PM	Urban vs Rural Hospitals: Exploring financial differences and patient outcomes	Mr. Steve Beck	ACB 220	
October 2nd, 2024	12-1 PM	Diagnostics: Comparing the cost of diagnostic procedures in different healthcare settings (general practice, emergency department, single-standing practices) and evaluating	Dr. Schroeder	ACB 230	
November 6th, 2024	12-1 PM	Public Health: The influence of financial strain on public health decision-making and the long-term impact on a population's health	Katherine Wells	ACB 220	
December 4th, 2024	12-1 PM	Pharmaceutical costs and how to most effectively provide affordable care	Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (PharmD)	ACB 240	
January 8th, 2025	12-1 PM	End of Life Care, including palliative care and hospice	Dr. Kelly Klein	ACB 220	
January 29th, 2025	12-1 PM	Free Clinic: History, mission, operations, and limitations of providing healthcare to underserved communities	Dr. Prabhu/Dr. Bennett or Dr. Morales	ACB 220	
February 5th, 2025	12-1 PM	Course capstone/wrap-up	Dr. Magers	ACB 220	

Professional Behavior will be assessed based on engagement in class activities, including attendance and peer review.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to subscribe to an honor system which is implicit in accepting admission to the Health Sciences Center. Each student shall be responsible for his/her conduct from the time of the application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment. Students are expected to abide by all of the rules for academic integrity, as specified in the TTUHSC Student Affairs Handbook (www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/doc/handbook.pdf).

Students with Disabilities: *"Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the course instructor (or program director) to make the necessary referral. Students must present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services in a confidential meeting with the instructor. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a*

student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services located in Lubbock - 2C412, by telephone at 806-743-1926, or by email disabilityservices@ttuhsc.edu."