



Professional Enrichment Course

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Office of Medical Education

PEC Registrar – Denise Downs ddowns@pitt.edu 412-648-8749

Health Policy

Enrollment Period:	Winter/ Spring 2023
Course Dates:	6 Sessions on Mondays from 5:00-6:30 pm on: 1/9/23 1/23/23 1/30/23 2/6/23 2/13/23 2/20/23
Student Max:	15
Class Year:	MS1
Course Director:	Howard Degenholtz, PhD (howard.degenholtz@pitt.edu) Allison DeKosky, MD (dekoskyas@upmc.edu)
Course Administrator:	Health Policy Advisory Board (HPAB@pitt.edu)
Location:	Scaife Hall, TBD
Registration:	Via Amp Up – Registration open date will be announced via email
Course Description:	This course is designed to give medical students an introduction to U.S. Health Policy and an understanding of how the policies and procedures of the healthcare system will impact their careers as physicians. Topics include an overview of the U.S. healthcare system, including public and private payment systems, comparative health policy, local policy initiatives in Allegheny County, pharmaceutical regulation and policy, and a discussion of the current state of healthcare reform in America and how physicians and medical students can advocate for change.
Objectives:	See below
Pre-Requisites:	None
Requirements:	Attend all sessions
Texts:	None

Health Policy Professional Enrichment Course

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine 2022-23

Description:

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Session 1: Intro to U.S. Health Policy

This session will provide an understanding of our current health policy system and how this system came to be. We will discuss historical events that led to the creation of the current system and how our current system influences care in America. We will discuss some unique features of our healthcare system such as employer-based healthcare and the array of public versus private payment plans.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify historical events that shaped our current healthcare system.
2. Identify the major payers and stakeholders in our current healthcare system.
3. Understand and be able to define concepts such as: premium, deductible, copay, HMO, PPO, long-term care facility.
4. Understand how our current healthcare system influences health outcomes.

Session 2: Comparative Health Policy

This session will compare and contrast the American healthcare system with systems of healthcare delivery and financing in other nations. We will explore the differences in cost, efficacy, and health outcomes resulting from different healthcare models.

Learning Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast the health care payment structures, costs, quality, and patient experiences between the United States and other industrialized nations.

Session 3: Resolution Writing Workshop

Having gained an understanding of the landscape of the US healthcare system, students will spend the final session learning how physicians can participate in the policymaking process. We will discuss what a resolution is, what it should include, and the process of creating and passing a resolution.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify ways that physicians can advocate for healthcare reform (i.e., joining professional organizations, serving on policy boards, meeting with local legislators).
2. Learn the basics of the policy process within medical societies.
3. Learn the basics of writing your own resolution.

Session 4: Pharmaceutical Pricing

This session will discuss the regulation of the pharmaceutical industry and the role of different stakeholders in determining drug pricing. Students will learn about the costs associated with developing and producing drugs and different methods of price control and regulation. They will also learn about the role physicians/medical students can play in advocating for affordable drugs.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the steps involved in bringing a new therapy from basic science to market.
2. Learn how drug prices are determined and how hospitals/insurance companies play a role in this process.
3. Identify factors that contribute to rising pharmaceutical costs.
4. Identify strategies for physician advocacy surrounding the rising costs of prescription drugs.

Session 5: Physicians' Roles in the Healthcare Landscape

Having gained an understanding of the landscape of healthcare reform in Session 5, students will spend the final session learning how physicians can play a role in health care reform. We will discuss how physicians can help their patients better navigate the healthcare system, and ways that medical providers can advocate for changes in healthcare policy.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify ways that physicians can help patients navigate the healthcare system.
2. Learn the basics of hands-on advocacy skills, such as writing letters to the editor and calling legislators.

Session 6: Women's Health

This session will provide students with an understanding of current topics in reproductive health. This includes women's health, prenatal care, neonatal and perinatal health issues. During this session the class will discuss the challenges facing women and pregnant people after the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the causes and consequences of neonatal and perinatal mortality.

2. Understand the consequences of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health for access to women's health and reproductive care.
3. Understand the implications of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health on the practice of medicine.