



# Professional Enrichment Course

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Office of Medical Education

## Health Policy

<b>Enrollment Period:</b>	Winter / Spring 2024
<b>Course Dates:</b>	5 Sessions from 5:00-7:00 pm on: 1/29/24 1/30/24 1/31/24 2/1/24 2/2/24
<b>Student Max:</b>	15 (course will not be offered with fewer than 10 students)
<b>Class Year:</b>	MS1
<b>Course Director:</b>	Howard Degenholtz, PhD ( <a href="mailto:howard.degenholtz@pitt.edu">howard.degenholtz@pitt.edu</a> ) Allison DeKosky, MD ( <a href="mailto:dekoskyas@upmc.edu">dekoskyas@upmc.edu</a> )
<b>Course Administrator:</b>	Health Policy Advisory Board ( <a href="mailto:HPAB@pitt.edu">HPAB@pitt.edu</a> )
<b>Student Representatives:</b>	Marissa Tremoglie-Barkowski Allessandra Leong
<b>Location:</b>	Scaife Hall 4501 & 4503
<b>Registration:</b>	Via Amp Up – Registration open date will be announced via email
<b>Course Description:</b>	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.
<b>Objectives:</b>	See below
<b>Pre-Requisites:</b>	None
<b>Requirements:</b>	Attend all sessions; 10 hours of independent reading or experiential learning (Recommended Readings and experiential activities TBD)
<b>Texts:</b>	TBD

# **Health Policy Professional Enrichment Course**

## **University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine 2022-23**

### **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.

### **Session 1: Intro to U.S. Health Policy**

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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**

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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: The Role of Government and Commercial Insurance in Health Care Access and Quality**

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Having gained a broad introduction to the landscape of the US healthcare system and other countries, students will gain a deeper understanding of the role of Medicaid, Medicare and commercial insurance in defining and improving health care quality and access.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the role of state and federal governments in defining quality of care;
2. Identify the role of state and federal governments in improving access to care;
3. Understand the role of commercial health insurance and managed care companies in defining, measuring and improving quality of care.

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## **Session 4: Pharmaceutical Pricing**

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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.

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## **Session 5: Women's Health and Gender Issues**

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This session will provide students with an understanding of current topics in reproductive health and gender issues. This includes women's health, prenatal care, neonatal and perinatal health issues as well as care for transgender persons. 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* as well as current efforts to control or prohibit access to gender affirming care.

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.