HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION (HPA)

HPA 503: Health Services Organizational Behavior
3 Credits
A systematic application of the principles of organizational behavior to understanding professional roles in health services organizations.

HPA 506: Design and Evaluation of Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Across the Life Span
3 Credits
Addresses theory and application of program evaluation, emphasizing process and outcome evaluation strategies for programs involving individuals, organizations and populations. HD FS (H P A) 506 Design and Evaluation of Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Across the Life Span (3) This course is designed for graduate students interested in the design and evaluation of programs in a wide range of human services (e.g., health care, social services, education). The course provides a foundation in the theory and application of program evaluation, with focused attention to the details of how such work can be proposed and conducted. The majority of the semester will focus on issues related to developing scientifically sound and viable studies of interventions in line with students’ interests. The goals for this course are to help students build the knowledge and confidence to evaluate human service programs and/or policies that are implemented in research settings (academic or government) and communities or community settings (e.g., schools, health care facilities, community agencies).

Prerequisite: HD FS503 and HD FS516; or H P A564
Cross-listed with: HDFS 506

HPA 510: Health Services Financing and Policy
3 Credits
Introduction to health policy focusing on health services financing, insurance and other current health policy topics. HPA 510 Health Services Financing and Policy (3) The second in a two-course sequence that introduces graduate students to the organization, financing, and delivery of health services in the U.S. This course focuses on health services financing and policy. This course will cover policy issues in the federal Medicare program, state Medicaid programs and private health insurance markets, and other important current health care policy issues. The course will also introduce students to the discipline of policy analysis, primarily the economic perspective, but will also include discussions on the political perspective and the policy-making process. The objectives of this course are to help students: 1) Understand the mechanisms by which Americans pay for their health care and become familiar with current health policy issues. The topics covered in this course will serve as a context for key policy issues that will be intensively discussed in a paired research seminar course; 2) Appreciate the policy-making process and the role of political perspectives in the formation and implementation of policy proposals; 3) Understand approaches of policy analysis, which will provide them with an analytic framework for critiquing health policy issues as well as health services research; 4) Develop policy analysis skills.

HPA 511: Research Seminar on Health Services Financing and Policy
3 Credits
An examination of seminal and current research on health services financing, insurance and health policy. HPA 511 Research Seminar on Health Services Financing and Policy is one of two seminars designed to complement introductory courses in the graduate H P A curriculum. This course allows graduate students seeking careers in health services research to engage in deeper study and discussion of the classic and current research on the issues of payment, insurance, regulation and policy related to health care delivery in the U.S. health care system and to begin to explore their research interests for a thesis. The primary objectives of the course are: (a) to help students become familiar with a selection of "classic" and "cutting edge" papers in the field of health services research (b) to develop students’ ability to critically read and analyze the health services research literature with an emphasis on the conceptual and methodological approaches used by researchers (c) to assist students in developing their ability to organize, synthesize and integrate research drawn from a variety of disciplinary approaches into a coherent foundation for further study in health services research (d) to improve students’ oral and written communication skills, emphasizing organization, clarity, and the ability to give and respond to constructive professional criticism. The readings for this course are all drawn from important journals in the field of health services research. Class will generally include 2 or 3 different activities designed to meet the objectives above. During each class, we will spend some time discussing the assigned articles to review the key points, analyze strengths and weaknesses of the research design, and consider how they provide a framework for studying the issues. In some classes, students will be asked to provide a short oral presentation of a topic, complemented by a written summary of the presentation topic. The class will discuss the paper and presentation, giving students constructive critical feedback on the presentation and paper. Finally, in some classes, the entire class will collaborate in developing a research question into a basic research proposal. Students will be responsible for writing papers, giving presentations, preparing written critiques of articles as a seminar class, the full participation of every student is necessary. Students must not only come prepared to class, they must be active participants in all aspects of the class each week. Grades in the class are based on oral presentations, written papers, article critiques and student participation.

Prerequisite: H P A510; Concurrent: H P A510

HPA 520: Introduction to Health Services Organizations and Delivery
3 Credits
Introduction to health systems, health services organization and health care delivery focused on trends, problems and issues.

HPA 521: Research Seminar on Health Services Organization and Delivery
3 Credits
An examination of seminal and current research on health services organization and delivery, emphasizing costs, access and quality. H P A 521 Research Seminar on Health Services Organization and Delivery (3) H P A 521 is one of two seminars designed to complement introductory courses in the graduate H P A curriculum. This course allows graduate students seeking careers in health services research to engage in deeper study and discussion of the classic and current research on the issues of health services organization and delivery in the U.S. health care system and to begin to explore their research interests for a thesis. The primary
objectives of the course are: (a) to help students become familiar with a selection of papers in the field of health services research (b) to develop students’ ability to critically read and analyze the health services research literature with an emphasis on the conceptual and methodological approaches used by researchers (c) to assist students in developing their ability to organize, synthesize and integrate research drawn from a variety of disciplinary approaches into a coherent foundation for further study in health services research (d) to improve students’ oral and written communication skills, emphasizing organization, clarity, and the ability to give and respond to constructive professional criticism. The readings for this class are all drawn from important journals in the field of health services research. Class will generally include 2 or 3 different activities designed to meet the objectives above. During each class, we will spend some time discussing the assigned articles to review the key points, analyze strengths and weaknesses of the research design, and consider how they provide a framework for studying the issues. In some classes, students will be asked to provide a short oral presentation of a topic, complemented by a written summary of the presentation topic. The class will discuss the paper and presentation, giving students constructive critical feedback on the presentation and paper. Finally, in some classes, the entire class will collaborate in developing a research question into a basic research proposal. Students will be responsible for writing papers, giving presentations, preparing written critiques of articles as a seminar class, the full participation of every student is necessary. Students must not only come prepared to class, they must be active participants in all aspects of the class each week. Grades in the class are based on oral presentations written papers, article critiques and student participation.

**Prerequisite:** HPA A520; Concurrent: HPA A520

HPA 523: Managerial Epidemiology

3 Credits

Introduction to the principles and methods of managerial epidemiology and its application to health care. HPA 523 Managerial Epidemiology (3) This course is intended to familiarize students with the methods and principles of managerial epidemiology. Changes in the structure of the health delivery and financing systems are making managers more responsible for the health of enrolled and constituent populations. The tools of epidemiology are important for purposes of planning, monitoring, and evaluation of population health. Managing the health of populations requires both an understanding of the factors that influence population health and how those factors can be influenced by health care organizations and systems. In addition to the management of population health, the methods of managerial epidemiology can be applied to organizational evaluation and clinical practice improvement. Epidemiology, interaction between health behavior and health management, health interventions, quality improvement, outcomes management, and program implementation and evaluation methods are examined. Particular emphasis is given to health management applications aimed at vulnerable populations, such as racial/ethnic minorities and the elderly.

**Prerequisite:** HPA A521

HPA 524: Management of Health Services Organizations

3 Credits

A systematic study of the roles of health services managers and the organizational and environmental context within which they work.
to research analysis; and basics of descriptive and exploratory analysis of health services research data. The objectives of the course are: (1) to give students a solid foundation of knowledge about health services data issues for their thesis and related research projects in the future; (2) to give them practical experience manipulating commonly used data sets in health services research; and, (3) to allow them to begin to explore potential research hypotheses for thesis and other research. Its primary role is to guide students in the master's of science and doctoral programs in Health Policy and Administration as they begin to explore research. It is also appropriate for other graduate students who intend to do research in or related to health services research.

**Prerequisite:** STAT 500 or equivalent preparation in probability and statistics

HPA 540: Epidemiological Applications in Health Services Research

3 Credits

The course emphasizes theoretical as well as practical issues relating to applying advanced methods of epidemiology in health services research. HPA 540 Epidemiological Applications in Health Services Research (3) Advanced methods of epidemiology are presented with examples and exercises. The course emphasizes theoretical as well as practical issues. Students will identify opportunities for implementing the epidemiological principles in health services research. Students will also have the chance to explore the existing secondary data resources and/or to collect primary data and prepare them for epidemiological analysis. The course examines various applications of epidemiological techniques in health services research. It focuses on the design and implementation of research projects utilizing epidemiological techniques to study the health of an identified population (Pennsylvanians), using data that is part of a national program, Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in all states.

**Prerequisite:** HPA 440, HPA 528

HPA 541: Poverty, Race, Ethnicity and Child Health

3 Credits

Seminar focusing on disparities in infant, child, and adolescent health, and policies and programs impacting these disparities. HPA 541 Poverty, Race, Ethnicity and Child Health (3) This course is designed to (1) strengthen students' understanding of the multidimensional nature of health and well-being at each stage of childhood and adolescence, and the magnitude of health disparities that exist among children of differing socioeconomic position and race/ethnicity; (2) encourage critical evaluation of existing governmental policies and programs impacting children's health and health disparities, and exploration of other potentially effective approaches; and (3) enhance students' expertise in the synthesis, critical analysis, and presentation of material in class and in written form. The content of this course is relevant not only to students in the Health Policy and Administration program, but also for students in other disciplines including but not limited to Demography, Human Development and Family Studies, Biobehavioral Health, Nutrition, and Nursing who are interested in learning about children's health and health disparities. Students are expected to participate actively in all class discussions and homework assignments, lead the class in the discussion of a specific government program impacting children's health, write a short reaction paper on the class text, write a final term paper on socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in an aspect of children's physical or mental health including evaluation of current and potential policy approaches for addressing these disparities, and present the major points made in the term paper to the class for discussion. This course will be offered once a year, with enrollment limited to 20 students.

HPA 545: Introduction to Health Economics

3 Credits

Survey of the application of economics to the roles of markets and government in health care.

HPA 551: Quality Improvement in Healthcare

3 Credits

Examination of major approaches to performance improvement in contemporary healthcare systems. HPA 551 Quality Improvement in Healthcare (3) The goal of this course is to provide students with requisite knowledge and skills for managing quality improvement and patient safety efforts in health care organizations. The various perspectives on the challenges of providing safe and reliable health services are covered. Operational approaches to quality improvement adapted from industry are examined and practiced in cases and exercises. Students learn to identify key aspects of systems and work flows. They employ currently used analytic tools to analyze quality-related systems problems and identify potential solutions. Finally, the course will assist students in improving management skills in the affective realm. Specifically, excellent performance in this competency realm will be demonstrated through: (a) persuasive written and verbal communication skills; (b) the ability to facilitate group problem solving in a situation that includes conflict; and (c) the ability to effectively navigate difficult conversations. The teaching and learning methods used in the course will include lectures by the instructor (usually brief), briefings by students, discussion, role play and other structured active learning exercises. Weekly class process reflections will be used for improvement purposes. The class serves as part of the culmination of the professional master's degree program. It is also appropriate as an elective course for students in master's and doctoral programs who are interested in research and applications in quality improvement in health care.

HPA 556: Strategy Development in Health Services Organization

3 Credits

Integration of prior course work in the program to develop a strategic plan for a health services organization.

**Prerequisite:** HPA 523, HPA 524, HPA 835

HPA 561: Introduction to Research Design in Health Services Research

3 Credits

Review and critical analysis of state-of-the-art health services research methods.

HPA 562: Economics Applications in Health Services Research

3 Credits

Application of theoretical and empirical tools of microeconomics to issues in health services utilization and delivery.

**Prerequisite:** HPA 445 or HPA 545
and the associated estimation methods, often go by other names; in non-experimental data in health services research. These general topics, the main theme of the course will be estimating causal effects using data. H PA 567 Advanced Methods in Health Services Research II (3) focused on empirical approaches to causal inference in nonexperimental application of advanced methods to health services research topics. The objectives of this course are to help students identify problems that may lead to violations of the assumptions of linear regression to develop students’ knowledge and skills in being able to use statistical models to test for and correct health data for heteroskedasticity, serial and autocorrelation into introduce students to binary response models that are ubiquitous in health services research.

Prerequisite: STAT 500

HPA 566: Advanced Methods in Health Services Research I

3 Credits

Advanced topics course focusing on extensions of the ordinary least squares regression model and nonlinear methods in health services research. H PA 566 Advanced Methods in Health Services Research I (3) The objectives of this course are to help students identify problems that may arise in health services research data, understand methods designed to address such problems, and apply those methods to problems that they encounter in their empirical work. This course is part of the methods core in the HPA doctoral curriculum, and builds from students’ introduction to research methods which is a prerequisite course. Students should have a strong foundation in statistical and research methods prior to taking H PA 566. After completing the course, students should be prepared for the beginning stages of data analysis for a thesis and for further advanced level study in health services research methods. Evaluation is based on homework and examinations.

Prerequisite: H P A564

HPA 567: Advanced Methods in Health Services Research II

3 Credits

Application of advanced methods to health services research topics focused on empirical approaches to causal inference in nonexperimental data. H PA 567 Advanced Methods in Health Services Research II (3) The main theme of the course will be estimating causal effects using non-experimental data in health services research. These general topics, and the associated estimation methods, often go by other names; in economics they are referred to as "identification strategies," while in other disciplines they are sometimes labeled "quasi-experimental research designs." Causal inference is one of the main issues to confront in conducting health services research. Devising empirical strategies that increase the likelihood that estimates have a causal interpretation is one of the primary objectives of health services researchers. The course will have a distinctively applied bent. The goal will be to survey as many estimation strategies as possible, with particular emphasis placed on those most commonly used by empirical researchers. The objectives will be to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches, the assumptions they require, and how they have been used in practice.

Prerequisite: H P A564

HPA 569: Colloquium

1-3 Credits/Maximum of 3

Introduction to the field of health services research.

HPA 595: Internship

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction, including field experiences, practicums, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

Prerequisite: prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor

HPA 596: Individual Studies

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Creative projects, including nonthesis research, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

Cross-listed with: CSPD 596

HPA 597: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given on a topical or special interest subject which may be offered infrequently.

HPA 600: Thesis Research

1-15 Credits/Maximum of 999

NO DESCRIPTION.

HPA 601: Ph.D. Dissertation Full-Time

0 Credits/Maximum of 999

NO DESCRIPTION.

HPA 602: Supervised Experience in College Teaching

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction, including field experiences, practicums, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

Prerequisite: completion of minimum of three semesters of graduate work in health policy and administration
and participating in classroom discussions and presentations.

be expected to use accurate and complete information in preparing for

Communication skills. Students will comprehensively to evaluate and analyze the health care delivered

need to use the knowledge gained in class and apply learned analytical

in clinical care and transferable to non-clinical settings. Students will

Analytical thinking. Discussions will focus on decision-making skills used

answer time with medical professionals and other resources needed

Students will be responsible for acquiring knowledge from lectures,

will contribute to the student's development in: 1. Information seeking.

to diagnose and treat diseases. 2. Demonstrate in written and oral

skills and knowledge to: 1. Describe and identify technologies used

technologies which are used to formulate patient diagnoses. Students

will also apply their knowledge in designing treatment plans for patients

through hypothetical case studies. All students will learn basic medical

vocabulary and terminology that is used in the field of medicine and will

gain an understanding of the pathophysiology, diagnosis, prevention

and treatment of common diseases. Students will gain an awareness

of methods of health promotion and apply that knowledge to real life

and hypothetical cases. This class will focus on the clinical aspects of

medicine. By the end of this course, students will have the necessary

skills and knowledge to: 1. Describe and identify technologies used
to diagnose and treat diseases. 2. Demonstrate in written and oral

work an understanding of the basic pathophysiology, diagnosis and
treatment of common diseases. 3. Compose written and oral work

displaying a basic knowledge of commonly used medical terminology.

4. Recognize the clinical approach that health care providers take in
diagnosing and treating common disorders, including tools and analytical

thought process used in providing quality care. 5. Demonstrate a

working understanding of the importance of computers and information

technologies used in patient care. 6. Utilize health care resources such

as the internet to analyze and examine health care topics. This course

will contribute to the student's development in: 1. Information seeking.

Students will be responsible for acquiring knowledge from lectures,
text books, medical journals, the internet, presentations, question and

answer time with medical professionals and other resources needed

to understand disease processes involving many organ systems. 2.

Analytical thinking. Discussions will focus on decision-making skills used

in clinical care and transferable to non-clinical settings. Students will

need to use the knowledge gained in class and apply learned analytical

skills comprehensively to evaluate and analyze the health care delivered
to a specific healthcare consumer. 3. Communication skills. Students will

be expected to use accurate and complete information in preparing for

and participating in classroom discussions and presentations.

HPA 610: Thesis Research Off-Campus

1-15 Credits/Maximum of 999

NO DESCRIPTION.

HPA 611: Ph.D. Dissertation Part-Time

0 Credits/Maximum of 999

NO DESCRIPTION.

HPA 805: Change Leadership in Health Services Organizations

3 Credits

Exploration of diagnostic and intervention strategies employed in planned

change in health services organizations and programs.

HPA 822: Clinical Issues for Health Services Management

3 Credits

Introduction to current clinical issues in health services organizations

focusing on the role of managers. H P A 822 Clinical Issues for Health

Services Management (3)This course is designed to provide the

clinical aspect to the HPA graduate students' education, an important

component of understanding population health and status assessment.

It will allow students to gain exposure and utilize important clinical

HPA 820: Change Leadership in Health Services Organizations

3 Credits

HPA 835: Financial Management in Health Institutions

3 Credits

The financial environment of health institutions; financial aspects of

management decision making; emphasis on revenue sources, budgeting,

and cost control.

Prerequisite: H P A447

HPA 836: Health Law

3 Credits

The legal process as it applies to the health administrator, health

organization, medical provider, and patient.

Prerequisite: H P A520

HPA 850: Health Care Marketing

3 Credits

Introduction to the theory, concepts, skills, and principles of marketing

applied to health related organizations and networks.

Prerequisite: H P A520

HPA 853: Leadership Ethics in Health Services Organizations

3 Credits

This course is designed to examine the theories and frameworks that

underlie the influence of values and ethics (personal, professional,

organization, and social) on leadership practices in health care

organizations, and to challenge students to examine their own ethical

assumptions. The primary emphasis of this course is on the values

held by individuals and their impact on administrative problem-solving

processes. Values conflicts will be explored in the context of individual

value clashes with the broader organizational and social values held by

healthcare organizations. Students will be exposed to a broad range of

theoretical literature on values and ethics, but the primary focus of this

course is on the development of practical leadership knowledge and

skill that will lead to more reflective, intelligent, and principled practices.

The primary course goal is to provide students with the tools to be more

effective when confronting issues that have ethical implications in their

own organizations.

HPA 854: Population Health and Quality Management in Health Services Organizations

3 Credits

This course is designed to provide students with the requisite

knowledge and skills for leading quality improvement, population health

management, and patient safety efforts to create high reliability health

care organizations that improve the overall health of the communities

served. The various perspectives on the challenges of providing safe

and reliable health services are covered, along with standards and report

cards currently used to assess and make transparent indicators of

quality. Operational approaches to quality improvement adapted from

within health care and other industries are examined and practiced,

using the student's unique organizational situation. Students will employ

currently used analytic tools to investigate quality-related systems

problems and to identify potential solutions that will improve the

health of the population they serve and their communities. The course

Health Policy and Administration (HPA)
will provide students with practice in dealing with both cognitive and affective aspects of patient safety, quality improvement, population health, and high reliability concepts. The course is structured to assist the student in selecting and analyzing an internal organizational quality improvement or population health issue.

HPA 855: Information Systems in Health Services Administration

3 Credits

Foundations of information systems for supporting clinical services, quality improvement, and administrative functions in health services management.

**Prerequisite:** HPA 520

HPA 896: Individual Studies

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Creative projects, including nonthesis research, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

HPA 897: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given on a topical or special interest subject which may be offered infrequently.

HPA 897D: **SPECIAL TOPICS**

1 Credits