UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by College of Medicine  _____________________________ Date  May 9, 2001  
Department/Division offering course  School of Public Health

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course
   a. Prefix and Number  SPH 658  
   b. Title*  Public Health Economics
      *NOTE: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write
      A sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use on transcripts  Public Health Economics
   c. Lecture/Discussion hours per week  3  
   d. Laboratory hours per week  0
   e. Studio hours per week  0  
   f. Credits  3
   g. Course description
      This course describes the role and methods of economics as applied to public health care delivery in the United States.

   h. Prerequisites (if any)
      Enrollment in a Public Health degree program and SPH 602/HSM 601, or consent of the instructor.

   i. May be repeated to a maximum of  _____________________________ (if applicable)

4. To be cross-listed as
   Prefix and Number  _____________________________  
   Signature, Chairman, cross-listing department

5. Effective Date  Fall 2003  (semester and year)

6. Course to be offered  
   □ Fall  
   □ Spring  
   □ Summer

7. Will the course be offered each year?  
   (Explain if not annually)  
   □ Yes  □ No

8. Why is this course needed?  
   This course fulfills a concentration requirement in the Public Health curriculum.

9. a. By whom will the course be taught?  Steven Fleming, Ph.D.
   b. Are facilities for teaching the course now available?  
      If not, what plans have been made for providing them?  
      □ Yes  □ No
10. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated?  15-20

11. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily?  Yes  No
Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department? Yes  No
If so, explain.

12. Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course?  Yes  No
If yes, under what Area? 

13. Check the category most applicable to this course
☒ traditional; offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;
☐ relatively new, now being widely established
☐ not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities

14. Is this course part of a proposed new program: Yes  No
If yes, which?

15. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs?* Yes  No
If yes, explain the change(s) below

16. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course and outline and/or reference list to be used.

17. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?
Name  Joel Lee, Dr.P.H.  Phone Extension  323-5059 x285

*NOTE: Approval of this course will constitute approval of the program change unless other program modifications are proposed.
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APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

Signatures of Approval:

__________________________________________  _______________________
Department Chair  Date

__________________________________________  _______________________
Dean of the College  Date

__________________________________________  _______________________
Date of Notice to the Faculty

__________________________________________  _______________________
*Undergraduate Council  Date

__________________________________________  _______________________
*University Studies  Date

__________________________________________  _______________________
*Graduate Council  Date

__________________________________________  _______________________
*Academic Council for the Medical Center  Date

__________________________________________  _______________________
*Senate Council (Chair)  Date of Notice to University Senate

*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

__________________________________________
ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

Rev 11/98
SPH: 658: PUBLIC HEALTH CARE ECONOMICS

Professor: Steven T. Fleming, Ph.D.
CAHP Building Room 113C
(606) 323-1100 ext. 276 (Phone Health Services Management Office)
(606) 323-1100 ext. 279 (Phone: Work-Office)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course describes the role and methods of economics as applied to public health care delivery in the United States. The approach is to recognize the reality of limited resources, alternative uses, and competing demands on these resources within the health care sector. Traditional concepts such as supply, demand, and consumer choice will be considered within the context of the peculiar features of the health care system, such as insurance and moral hazard.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of SPH 658 are for the student to have the ability to do the following upon course completion:

1. to describe the relevance and importance of microeconomic analysis for health and medical services
2. to describe the markets for health, medical care, and health insurance
3. to describe the conceptual framework for the demand and production of health care services
4. to describe markets for physician, nursing, and hospital services and conceptualize shortage and surplus within health care labor markets
5. to describe moral hazard, information asymmetry, and externalities in terms of effects on the medical care marketplace
6. to describe a theoretical framework for health insurance
7. to describe and apply the role of hospital and nursing homes in the marketplace
8. to describe issues of cost and rationing and how managed care addresses either
9. to differentiate between private and social insurance within a conceptual framework of equity, efficiency and need
10. to describe and apply various attempts at health system reform such as universal health insurance

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend class sessions, to read and study assignments prior to the class period in which they are discussed, and to participate in class seminars, discussions, and debates. It is imperative that the student come to class prepared to discuss the issues related to the topic.
**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

1. Two examinations 35% (each exam)

2. One policy brief 30%

3. Both exams will cover both lecture material and readings from the text. Any student who misses a class session is responsible for obtaining notes or other handout materials from a fellow classmate. No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made with the instructor in advance of the scheduled exam. Any student who fails to take a scheduled exam without making prior arrangements with the instructor in advance of the exam will receive a "0" for the scheduled test. This same policy will be applied to exercises and special projects.

4. All students are expected to submit a 10 page policy brief or position paper on a topic relevant to health economics. The policy brief should include a definitive formulation of a particular question, a summary of the context to the debate question, and a systematic articulation of the arguments used to defend the position using health economic theory to support the position. Sample questions include (1) “health is an investment: we should therefore give poor people cash rather than Medicaid benefits, and let them choose whether to invest in health” (2) “Medicare should adopt an explicit rationing program like the state of Oregon.”

5. Course grading will be based upon the criteria stated in the University Bulletin.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably prepared, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from a grade of "E" to expulsion from the University. Both cheating and plagiarism are considered academic dishonesty. Cheating refers to any unauthorized assistance during examinations, such as notes or handouts. It also includes either giving or taking the answers to examination questions to/from other student(s). Plagiarism is academic "theft", and includes not properly crediting another author for his/her work or idea. Any paraphrase or direct quotation from a published or unpublished work should be properly cited with a footnote or reference. Students must be particularly careful not to engage in plagiarism, even inadvertently, since computers and internet web-browsing seem to facilitate this process.

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References


Miller, Robert H. 1997. "Does Managed Care Lead to Better or Worse Quality of Care?" Health Affairs 16(5): 7-25.


