



ECON916

Health Economics and Policy

S2 Day 2019

Dept of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Kompal Sinha

kompal.sinha@mq.edu.au

4ER Room 442

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

ECON632

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is aimed at students interested in pursuing careers in the field of health economics, health policy or health technology assessment, or students interested in understanding the economics of health and health policy. The unit will introduce students to economic tools and their application relevant to the understanding of the economics of health and health care. Adopting a microeconomic approach, the unit will cover economic and statistical concepts and techniques relevant to the understanding of health economics. Topics covered will include supply and demand for health, information and insurance markets, key players in the health care sector, social insurance, the economics of health innovation (pharmaceuticals, technology and health technology assessment), health policy, health systems around the world, the economics and policy of bads (smoking, alcohol), public health economics, behavioural health economics, health and economic development and the case of Aboriginal health.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Comprehend the importance of health economics in the understanding of health systems.

Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.

Evaluate health as a unique economic good and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.

Demonstrate knowledge of the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.

Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Presentation and discussion</u>	15%	No	Week 7
<u>Research report</u>	40%	No	Week 12
<u>Health policy debate</u>	15%	No	Week 13
<u>Final Exam</u>	30%	No	Examination period

Presentation and discussion

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **15%**

Each student is assigned a task of presenting a preassigned paper and discussing another paper during workshop sessions. The suggested papers will be posted on iLearn in Week 1 of this unit guide. Each student is required to read their assigned paper and prepare a power point aided presentation. This presentation will be shared with the class via iLearn after the presentation. Each student also acts as a discussant for another paper and has to lead the discussion of this paper. Each student is required to submit a 500 word summary of the discussion at the beginning of lecture in Week 7.

All students are expected to attend and participate in the presentation and discussion sessions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Research report

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are required to prepare a research report on the assigned topic. In addition students may formulate their own topic for the essay which will need to be negotiated with the unit convenor. A starting point for negotiation is that students can demonstrate the importance of the topic through existing literature.

This assessment comprises of two parts: a report on current policy topic and summary of student social media engagement (details will be provided via iLearn).

Submission requirements: The essay length is a maximum of 5,000 words and is due in week 12. The submitted essay **MUST** clearly indicate SID, name and topic. It **MUST** begin with a 400 word abstract (not included in the word limit) that sets out the issues and main conclusions of the essay. The submitted essay **MUST** be in WORD format in 12pt font with page margins of at least 3 cms to allow space for feedback on the submitted paper. Any footnotes and appendices are not included in the word limit. Referencing style must conform to that required by the Journal of Health Economics, which students are expected to consult in the library or online. Submission is by turnitin to iLearn by the due date and time. Feedback on student performance will be provided in the final tutorial of the semester (.i.e by 11:59pm on the Friday of Week 12). Feedback will take the form of written comments on the essay and the completion of the attached marking scheme.

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Health policy debate

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **15%**

Students will be assigned a health policy question at the beginning of session (Week 2). Each student will be required to work on this health policy topic throughout the session and participate in the class debate in Week 13. A short 2 page summary of their case should be handed in at the beginning of the debate in Week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.
- Evaluate health as a unique economic good and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.
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Final Exam

Due: **Examination period**

Weighting: **30%**

A final exam will be held during the University exam period. The exam will cover all materials and topics covered during the unit. The exam format will be discussed in-class during Week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.
- Evaluate health as a unique economic good and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.

Delivery and Resources

Required and recommended text:

Bhattacharya, J., Hyde, T., & Tu, P. (2013). *Health economics*. Macmillan International Higher Education. Folland, S., A. Goodman and M. Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, (8th Ed), Pearson.

The textbooks are available for purchase at Co-op Bookshop. A small number are available on reserve in the library. Earlier editions are similar but page references may change.

Teaching and learning resources

- Course material is available on the iLearn unit page
- Students will be required to read journal articles every week. The list of these articles will be posted on iLearn unit page.
- Students will use MS-Office for this unit.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic	Workshop
1	Introduction and Demand for Health and Health Care	Workshop 1
2	Population health and socioeconomic disparities in health	Workshop 2
3	Supply of health care I	Workshop 3
4	Supply of health care II	Workshop 4
5	Market for insurance I	Workshop 5
6	Market for insurance II	Workshop 6
7	Student led presentations and discussion	Workshop 7
8	Economics of health innovation	Workshop 8
9	Health policy I	Workshop 9
10	Health policy II	Workshop 10
11	Health policy III	Workshop 11
12	Economics of health externalities	Workshop 12
13	Revision	Health policy debate

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Comprehend the importance of health economics in the understanding of health systems.
- Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.
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- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

Assessment tasks

- Research report
- Health policy debate
- Final Exam

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Comprehend the importance of health economics in the understanding of health systems.
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Assessment tasks

- Presentation and discussion
- Research report
- Health policy debate
- Final Exam

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate health as a unique economic good and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.

Assessment task

- Research report

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Presentation and discussion
- Health policy debate