



ECON8018

Healthcare Economics for Leaders

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Lecturer and Tutor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPH or MHL

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Leaders in the healthcare industry face challenges in resource allocation, healthcare financing, promoting equity, and designing ethical frameworks for decision-making. This unit equips leaders to communicate health economics theories and knowledge effectively in technical and non-technical contexts, fostering a comprehensive understanding of global health challenges and solutions. Students will be introduced to the economic tools relevant to the knowledge of the economics of health and health care, learning concepts and techniques for critical decision-making accounting for equity and ethics, and equipping students with the knowledge and skills required to navigate complex healthcare environments.

Topics covered may include supply and demand for health, information and insurance markets, key players in the healthcare sector, social insurance, the economics of health innovation (pharmaceuticals, technology and health technology assessment), health policy, health systems around the world, public health economics, health disparities, behavioural health economics, ethics in health, impact on economic development and the case of Indigenous health. Through case studies, policy analysis, and stakeholder engagement exercises, students will learn to formulate, evaluate, and design healthcare policies to balance efficiency and equity.

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:

ULO1: Critically analyse the importance of health economics and its role in global health policy, and appraise healthcare financing models and their implications for access and equity.

ULO2: Analyse and appraise economic evaluations relevant to public health issues.

ULO3: Evaluate healthcare markets and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.

ULO4: Develop skills to design and evaluate health policies with a focus on promoting equity and ethical standards.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalties

If you submit your assessment late, 5% of the total possible marks will be deducted for each day (including weekends), up to 7 days. Submissions more than 7 days late will receive a mark of 0.

Example 1 (out of 100):

If you score 85/100 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **5 marks** and receive **80/100**.

Example 2 (out of 30):

If you score 27/30 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **1.5 marks** and receive **25.5/30**.

Extensions

Automatic short extension: Some assessments are eligible for automatic short extension. You can only apply for an automatic short extension before the due date.

Special Consideration: If you need more time due to serious issues and for any assessments that are not eligible for Short Extension, you must apply for Special Consideration. Need help? Review the [Special Consideration page](#) for further details.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Formal examination: Class test	30%	No	Week 7 in Seminar class	Individual	No	Observed
Skills development: Current economic policy debate	30%	No	11:55pm Tuesday 06 October 2026	Group	No	Open
Professional practice: Health economics leadership strategy	40%	No	27/10/ 2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Formal examination: Class test

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1.5 hours

Due: **Week 7 in Seminar class**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate your understanding of key economic concepts, including market efficiency, healthcare financing, and policy evaluation. The class test is designed to test both your theoretical knowledge and the application of economic principles to real-world health challenges.

You will complete an open-book in-class test in Week 7.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Discipline knowledge
- Work readiness

Deliverable(s): In-class test

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and appraise economic evaluations relevant to public health issues.
- Evaluate healthcare markets and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.

Skills development: Current economic policy debate

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **11:55pm Tuesday 06 October 2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this task is for you to demonstrate innovative approaches to current economic policy debate.

You will review the literature, social media, reports, statistics, trends and economics related to the topic allocated to you and then showcase your approach in a group podcast.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and communication
- Work readiness

Deliverable(s): Podcast

Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse the importance of health economics and its role in global health policy, and appraise healthcare financing models and their implications for access and equity.
- Analyse and appraise economic evaluations relevant to public health issues.
- Develop skills to design and evaluate health policies with a focus on promoting equity and ethical standards.

Professional practice: Health economics leadership strategy

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **27/10/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your capability to develop a strategic plan addressing a health system challenge using economic frameworks.

You will develop a strategic plan which addresses a health system challenge using economic frameworks. You will integrate health economics and leadership skills into a white paper.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Discipline knowledge
- Work readiness
- Communication skills

Deliverable(s): Strategy report on health policy [3000 words]

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse the importance of health economics and its role in global health policy, and appraise healthcare financing models and their implications for access and equity.
- Analyse and appraise economic evaluations relevant to public health issues.
- Develop skills to design and evaluate health policies with a focus on promoting equity and ethical standards.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

The delivery format of this Unit is as follows:

1. **Two-hour face-to-face lecture:** Delivered on campus every Thursday 4-6pm in 14SCO T3 Lecture Theatre. The lecture is co-taught with Econ8016. Each week's lecture includes embedded in-class discussions or activities to support engagement and active learning. All lectures are recorded live and later uploaded to iLearn via Echo360.

2. **One-hour seminar** (starting Week 2): Each seminar focuses on theoretical and real-world-related questions designed to strengthen your discipline knowledge, enhance your critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and build your overall work-readiness capability. These activities will also support your performance in the assessment tasks

Required and recommended text:

Lee, R. H. (2014). *Economics for healthcare managers*. ACHE Learn.

Phillips, C. J. (2008). *Health economics: an introduction for health professionals*. John Wiley & Sons.

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.

This textbook is 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.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Health economics
2 & 3	Economic Concepts and Tools for Health Economics
4	Production of health
5	Health and healthcare systems
6	Healthcare markets
7	Government intervention and regulation in healthcare markets
8	Health externalities
	Mid-session Break
9	Health insurance markets
10	Economics of uncertainty: moral hazard and asymmetric information
11	Economic analysis of intervention
12	Economics of unhealthy choices

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.05 of the **Handbook**