



ECON8016

Health Economics and Policy

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

Department of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Lecturer and Tutor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(Admission to GradCertResMQBS or GradDipResMQBS or MAppEc (1 year)) or ECON6049 or ECON6032 or ECON8091

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the economic tools and their application that is relevant to the understanding of the economics of health and health care. Adopting a microeconomic approach, students learn the economic, statistical concepts and techniques relevant to health economics. Topics covered may 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 health economics of bads (smoking, alcohol), public health economics, behavioural health economics, ethics in health, impact on economic development and the case of Indigenous 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:

ULO1: Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to health systems.

ULO2: Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.

ULO3: Evaluate health as a unique economic good, and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.

ULO4: Critically analyse the role of health economics in the design of health policy globally.

ULO5: Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

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
Skills development: Research and communication	30%	No	Starting Week 6 in Seminar class	Individual	No	Observed
Professional practice: Application of learning	40%	No	13/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Professional practice: Debating policy issues	30%	No	Starting Week 12 in Seminar class	Group	No	Observed

Skills development: Research and communication

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Starting Week 6 in Seminar class**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is for you to develop expertise in crafting and delivering solutions on real-world related issues. You will conduct research and present a literature review on one of the pre-assigned topics.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Digital skills
- Global, ethical and environmental citizenship
- Discipline knowledge

Deliverable(s): Presentation (approx 10 min)

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to 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.
- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

Professional practice: Application of learning

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **13/10/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate the ability to apply the expertise you have gained in Health Economics and Policy. You are required to prepare a case study report on one of the selected policy topics.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Digital skills
- Work readiness
- Global, ethical and environmental citizenship
- Discipline knowledge

Deliverable(s): Written Report [max 4000 words]

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to 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.
- Critically analyse the role of health economics in the design of health policy globally.
- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

Professional practice: Debating policy issues

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Starting Week 12 in Seminar class**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is for you to develop critical thinking skills and practice how to construct a persuasive argument. You will be assigned a contemporary issue on health policy.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Discipline knowledge
- Global, ethical and environmental citizenship

Deliverable(s): Debate

Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to 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.
- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

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 Econ8018. 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:** The seminar takes place right before the lecture, Thursday 3-4pm (starting Week 2) in 25WW GB31. 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
13	Behavioural economics

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 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)