  
**Using Problem Based Learning  
to Analyze Health Policy**

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**Purpose/Objectives**

- Describe a health policy course addressing DNP Essential V
- ID the characteristics of evidence that determine health policy
  - Effectiveness
  - Efficiency
  - Equity

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**DNP Essential V:  
Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care**

The DNP program prepares the graduate to:

1. **Critically analyze** health policy ...from the perspective of **stakeholders**...
2. Demonstrate leadership in the development & implementation of institutional, local, state, federal, and/or international health policy.
3. Influence policy makers through active participation ...to improve health care delivery and outcomes.
4. Educate others...regarding nursing, health policy, and patient care outcomes.
5. **Advocate** for the nursing profession within the policy and healthcare communities.
6. **Develop, evaluate,** and provide leadership for health care policy that shapes health care financing, regulation, and delivery.
7. **Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies** within all healthcare arenas.

AACN, 2006

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“Care should be safe, effective, efficient, timely, personalized & equitable”  
(IOM, *Crossing the Quality Chasm*, 2001).

- Is the health policy effective?
- Is the health policy efficient?
- Is the health policy equitable?

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**Effectiveness**  
Examines the benefits of healthcare measured by improvements in health.

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**Efficiency**  
Relates health improvements to the resources required to produce them.

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**Equity**

Concerned with health disparities & the fairness & effectiveness of the procedures for addressing them.

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**Health Services Research**

“...examines the

- use,
- costs,
- quality,
- accessibility
- delivery,
- organization,
- financing &
- outcomes of healthcare services

to increase knowledge & understanding of the structure, processes & effects of health services for individuals & populations” (IOM, 1995, p. 17).

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**Population Health**

Examine selected health policies (actual or proposed) for specific population health problems through the lens of evidence to support the policy because it is effective, efficient & equitable.

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### Required Texts

- Aday, L.A., Begley, C.E., Lairson, D.R., & Balkrishnan, R. (2004). *Evaluating the healthcare system: Effectiveness, efficiency, and equity* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Health Administration Press.
- Holtz, C. (2008). *Global health care: Issues and policies*. Jones & Barlett.

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### Policy Analysis Framework

- Identify the population health problem.
- Identify the health policy.
- Discuss key stakeholders/factors.
- Identify, analyze & summarize evidence.
- Make policy recommendation based on the evidence.
- Discuss strategies for influencing policy, educating stakeholders & advocating for patients & the nursing profession.

Teitelbaum, J.B., & Wilensky, S.E. (2007). *Essentials of Health Policy & Law*. Jones & Barlett

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### Course Grade

- 10% Discussion (Individual)
- 20% Effectiveness Analysis (Group)
- 20% Efficiency Analysis (Group)
- 20% Equity Analysis (Group)
- 20% Presentation (Group)
- 10% Peer Evaluations (Individual)
- 100%

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### Discussion

Individual Assignment

- Reading assignment
- Article on mammography in the older population
- Position
- Discussion posting
- Discussion response

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### Population Health Problems

- Infectious Diseases
- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Respiratory Diseases
- Orthopedic Chronic Diseases
- Cancers
- Violence, Injury & Occupational Health
- Mental Health
- Environmental Health
- Reproduction Health
- Infant & Child Health
- Older Adult Health
- Nutritional Health

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### Policy Examples

- National School Lunch Program
- Colon-rectal screening
- Use of spirometry in COPD
- The impact of paying clinicians for the utilization of clinical guidelines to control Diabetes in older adults
- Requiring infant hepatitis B vaccination
- Routine HPV vaccination in reducing the incidence & mortality of cervical cancer
- A comprehensive, nationwide asthma surveillance system

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### Three Papers

Analysis of

- Effectiveness evidence
- Efficiency evidence
- Equity evidence

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### Presentation

- Synthesis of three papers
- Strategies
  - Influence policy
  - Educate stakeholders
  - Advocate for patients
  - Advance nursing profession
    - nursing research, clinical practice & political action.

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### True or False?

- A DNP health policy course based on the *Essentials* can facilitate a student's understanding of the IOM's call for safe, effective and equitable health care policies.
- A health policy can be effective but not efficient.
- A health policy can be effective but not equitable.
- A health policy can be efficient but not equitable.
- Health policy should be based on evidence.

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**QUESTIONS?**

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