



COURSE OUTLINE: HCA113 - POLICY IN HEALTHCARE

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Approved: Bob Chapman - Dean

Course Code: Title	HCA113: POLICY IN HEALTHCARE
Program Number: Name	2186: HEALTH CARE ADMIN
Department:	BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course explores the Canadian health care system through the lenses of history, law, economics, politics, ethics, and social values. Students will examine how health policy is developed, implemented, and evaluated, as well as the key drivers influencing change in health systems. Emphasis is placed on understanding current issues, policy debates, and the impact of policy on access, utilization, equity, and health outcomes. Comparative analysis with other international systems will support students in developing a critical perspective on health system performance and reform. Students will also learn how health care leaders can engage in and influence policy development.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
This course is a pre-requisite for:	HCL401
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	2186 - HEALTH CARE ADMIN
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Address the needs of a diverse patient population using best practices to ensure progressive and positive processes within a health care facility.
	VLO 2 Achieve positive outcomes using core concepts of quality, patient safety, patient & Family centred care.
	VLO 5 Practice within the legal, ethical and professional scope of practice of a manager in the province of Ontario.
	VLO 7 Support evidence informed decision making, using critical thinking skills and best practices in the administration of a healthcare facility.
	VLO 8 Outline strategies to manage risks in the business activities of a health care organization.
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
	EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.



- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
- EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
Analyze the structure and evolution of the Canadian health care system within a global context.	1.1 Describe the historical development of Medicare in Canada. 1.2 Explain the relationship between national identity, social values, and health insurance. 1.3 Summarize the influence of key federal and provincial reports and commissions on system reform. 1.4 Compare Canadian health care structures with international models in terms of funding, access, and delivery.
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
Explain foundational concepts and terminology in health policy and governance.	2.1 Define and differentiate key terms such as health, health care, policy, law, and ethics. 2.2 Examine the influence of political ideologies, public values, and stakeholder interests on health policy.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
Critically evaluate current health policy debates and their impact on health system performance and equity.	3.1 Analyze historical and contemporary health policy issues related to funding, economics, supply and demand. 3.2 Assess the effects of policy decisions on health equity, access, and outcomes, particularly for marginalized populations. 3.3 Reflect on power dynamics and competing priorities in Canadian health policy discussions.
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
Apply knowledge of the policy process to assess and develop policy options.	4.1 Evaluate the evidence and rationale supporting proposed policy changes. 4.2 Identify potential risks, barriers, and enablers in the policy implementation process. 4.3 Analyze stakeholder perspectives and incorporate them into policy decision-making. 4.4 Demonstrate the ability to write a briefing note and present policy recommendations clearly and persuasively. 4.5 Explore how health care leaders and their organizations can influence and shape policy at local, provincial, and national levels.



Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Assignments (includes written assignments and presentations)	60%
Professional Skills Development	20%
Tests	20%

Date:

August 19, 2025

Addendum:

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

