

## YEARS 1 & 2 ELECTIVE COURSE

TITLE: Health Policy / Business of Medicine

COURSE NO.: SOMN 723

DEPARTMENT: Family Medicine

DURATION: Semester

DIRECTOR: Daniel P. Hickey, JD, MBA  
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Dowling Hall 2226

SEMESTERS AVAILABLE: Fall

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 30

LOCATION: Health Science Campus

COORDINATOR: Lindsey N. Brillhart  
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Dowling Hall 2200

FACULTY: Daniel P. Hickey, JD, MBA

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Health Policy/Business of Medicine explores and analyzes the organization, delivery, financing, and evaluation of health care in the United States. The elective focuses on contemporary issues in healthcare policy – including access, cost, and quality – and their impact on key industry stakeholders (patients, providers, and payers). Topics include organized delivery models, healthcare financing and regulation, and quality assessment and management.

The purpose of the elective is to introduce students to various healthcare delivery and financing systems and to provide a forum for students to critically analyze, debate, and advocate for health policy and reform. Students also will be exposed to fundamental business aspects of the practice of medicine (operations management, financial management, human resource management, risk and compliance management, patient-centered care, and organizational governance) and nontraditional MD career paths (e.g., health policy, healthcare administration).

The elective will meet six times, two hours each session (12 hours), and will include lecture, small-group discussion, policy analysis and debate, and student presentations. Students will be required to complete one-half hour of independent study (i.e., required readings, videos, etc.) in preparation for each session (3 hours). Students also must attend at least one-half of the Business of Medicine Organization business meetings and educational events (2 hours).

Students, in consultation with the director, will determine areas of scholarly focus. Each student will be required to make a formal oral presentation, including facilitated peer discussion, on the topic selected.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES: [Links to Core Competencies]

At the conclusion of this elective, students should be able to:

1. Describe different structures under which health care is organized and delivered. [MK-9, MK-16, PB-1, PB-6, PB-8, IPC-2, PBL-2, SBP-1, SBP-2]
2. Assess healthcare reimbursement and payment system models. [MK-9, MK-12, PB-1, PB-6, PB-8, IPC-2, PBL-2, SBP-1, SBP-2]
3. Discuss healthcare quality initiatives. [MK-9, MK-16, PB-1, PB-6, PB-8, IPC-2, PBL-2, SBP-1, SBP-2]
4. Debate positions on current healthcare issues and trends and discuss their impact on key industry stakeholders. [PB-1, PB-6, PB-8, IPC-2, PBL-2]
5. Participate in state and federal healthcare policy review and describe advocacy efforts likely to influence such policy. [PB-1, PB-6, PB-8, IPC-2, PBL-2]
6. Compare and contrast healthcare systems in the United States and other countries. [MK-16, PB-1, PB-6, PB-8, IPC-2, PBL-2, SBP-1, SBP-2]

## METHODS OF TEACHING:

Independent Study (Required Readings/Videos), Lecture, Small-Group Discussion, Debate, Student Presentations

## METHODS OF EVALUATION AND STUDENT FEEDBACK:

Attendance, Participation, Faculty and Peer Assessment of Student Presentations

## LINKAGE TO CORE COMPETENCIES:

- MK-9 Knowledge of ethical principles that govern decision making in medicine.
- MK-12 Knowledge of the non-biological determinants of health and the economic, psychological, social, and cultural factors that contribute to health and disease.
- MK-16 Knowledge of fundamental principles of patient-centered and team-based care, patient safety, as well as quality improvement in healthcare delivery.
- PB-1 Ethical, responsible, reliable, and dependable behavior in all aspects of their professional lives and a commitment to patients, society, and the profession.
- PB-6 Knowledge of, and respect for, other healthcare professionals, and of the need to collaborate with others in caring for patients as well as promoting population health.
- PB-8 Professional maturity by appropriately managing conflicts, coping with personal and professional stress, and showing flexibility in potentially ambiguous situations.
- IPC-2 The ability to communicate effectively with colleagues within one's discipline as well as other health professionals in a respectful, professional, and timely manner to ensure interdisciplinary and interprofessional delivery of high-quality care.
- PBL-2 The ability to independently set learning and improvement goals.
- SBP-1 Knowledge of the role and responsibilities of physicians and other healthcare professionals in various models of healthcare organizations, and the impact of finances/economics on delivery of health care.
- SBP-2 Knowledge of the impact of healthcare disparities in delivery of health care.

QUALITY ASSURANCE: Ongoing student feedback will be elicited as the elective progresses. Students will complete an evaluation of the elective at its conclusion.

PREREQUISITES: First- or second-year medical student in good academic standing.