

Course Unit	Health Economics	Field of study	Economics
Master in	Management - Health Services Management	School	School of Technology and Management
Academic Year	2019/2020	Year of study	1
Type	Semestral	Semester	2
Level	2-1	ECTS credits	6.0
Code	5009-517-1201-00-19		
Workload (hours)	162	Contact hours	T - TP 42 PL - TC - S 3 E - OT - O -

T - Lectures; TP - Lectures and problem-solving; PL - Problem-solving, project or laboratory; TC - Fieldwork; S - Seminar; E - Placement; OT - Tutorial; O - Other

Name(s) of lecturer(s) Alcina Maria Almeida Rodrigues Nunes

Learning outcomes and competences

At the end of the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Identify the health care market factors;
2. Understand the basic economic principles of health and health care sectors;
3. Understand the specificities of the health care demand and supply markets and how they are regulated;
4. Identify the factors that promote equity in the health sector;
5. Critically analyse the characteristics of a health system (particularly in the Portuguese economy);
6. Discuss the problems and questions surrounding the public health policy;
7. Adopt efficient decisions, related with health and health care, in his/her workplace.

Prerequisites

Before the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Understand and apply the basic microeconomic theory;
2. Understand and apply basic inferential statistical concepts.

Course contents

The economic science and the health sector: the economic analyses applied to the sector. The health market and the health care market: international comparisons. Demand for health and demand for health care. Market failures: asymmetric information and the agents' behaviour. Supply of health care. Inequalities and health determinants. Health care systems, equity and financing. Health care outcomes and economic evaluation.

Course contents (extended version)

1. Health and health economics
 - The economic science applied to health
 - What is different in health economics
 - Health economics specific characteristics
2. Health market and health care market
 - International comparisons on health care expenditures
 - Health and the statistical value of life
 - Health in the Portuguese population
3. Demand for health and demand for health care
 - Health production: the Grossman model
 - Partial equilibrium analyses
 - Supplier induced demand
4. Market failures
 - Imperfect information
 - Asymmetric information
 - Agency relationship
 - Uncertainty and differences in clinical activity
5. Uncertainty and risk adjustment
 - Insurance and the health market
 - Adverse selection
 - Moral hazard
6. Organization and provision of health care
 - Supply/production of health care
 - Costs in health care
 - Technical and economic efficiency
 - Technology and health care
 - Hospitals
7. Equity, inequalities and financing in the health care provision
 - Concepts
 - Equity in health care provision
 - Inequality measurement
 - The organization of finance in a health system
 - Payments
8. Outcomes and performance evaluation
 - Economic evaluation
 - Effectiveness measurement
 - Cost measurement
 - Cost-effectiveness plan
 - Examples
9. The Portuguese health care system: recent policy reforms

Recommended reading

1. Barros, P. P. (2013). Economia da Saúde - Conceitos e Comportamentos (3ª Edição). Livraria Almedina.
2. Bernell, S. (2016). Health Economics: Core Concepts and Essential Tools (9th Edition). Health Administration Press.
3. Folland, S., Goodman, A. C., & Stano, M. (2017). The Economics of Health and Health Care (8th Edition). Routledge.
4. Henderson, J. W. (2017). Health Economics and Policy (7th Edition). Cengage Learning.
5. Phelps, C. E. (2017). Health Economics (6th Edition). Routledge.

Teaching and learning methods

The course will be taught through lectures complemented by group dynamics and class discussion, papers reviews and students presentations. Students are encouraged to ask questions on the course materials and to share any personal experiences which are relevant to the topic.

Assessment methods

1. Alternative 1 - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final, Supplementary)
 - Work Discussion - 40%
 - Final Written Exam - 60%
2. Alternative 2 - (Student Worker) (Final, Supplementary)
 - Final Written Exam - 100%
3. Alternative 3 - (Regular, Student Worker) (Special)
 - Final Written Exam - 100%

Language of instruction

Portuguese, with additional English support for foreign students.

Electronic validation

Alcina Maria Almeida Rodrigues Nunes	António Borges Fernandes	Paula Odete Fernandes	Paulo Alexandre Vara Alves
02-03-2020	11-03-2020	12-03-2020	21-03-2020