



This course supports the assessments for Policy, Politics, and Global Health Trends. The course covers 5 competencies and represents 3 competency units.

Introduction

Overview

Welcome to the Policy, Politics, and Global Trends course. Social, political, and economic factors influence policies that impact health outcomes in acute care settings in communities, nationally, and globally. Nurse leaders need to understand the determinants of health as well as how legal and regulatory processes, healthcare finances, research, the role of professional organizations, special interest groups, and lobbyists impact health outcomes.

This course provides a framework for understanding the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations. It addresses how policies are made and factors that influence policies at local, national, and global levels that impact health, wellness, and the nursing profession. The roles of values, ethical theories, stakeholder interests, research, and recent legislation related to health policy and health outcomes will be explored. Through the activities in this course, the nurse leader will gain expertise in effecting change through active participation in influencing or developing policies that impact health.

You will complete a performance assessment to demonstrate your mastery of the content in this course. The performance assessment requires you to actively engage in advocating policies. It is encouraged that you look at the performance assessment now so you can organize your notes and study habits and be prepared to complete it quickly.

Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 5 competencies:

- **Competency 7007.1.1: Organization and Financing Healthcare**
The graduate analyzes the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations.
- **Competency 7007.1.2: Policy Process**
The graduate analyzes the historical, economic, and political factors that effect healthcare policy development and the impact of those policies on healthcare cost, quality, and access.
- **Competency 7007.1.3: Effects of Legal and Regulatory Policies**
The graduate analyzes the effect of major legal and regulatory policies on nursing practice, healthcare delivery, and health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.
- **Competency 7007.1.4: Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses' Policy Positions**
The graduate analyzes the values that drive policies.
- **Competency 7007.1.5: Advocate for Policies that Improve the Health of the Public and the Profession of Nursing**
The graduate analyzes strategies that healthcare advocates use to effect policies with the goal of improving the public health and the profession of nursing.



Nursing Dispositions Statement

Please review the [Statement of Nursing Dispositions](#).

Preparing for Success

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

Learning Resources

The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course. For many resources, WGU has provided automatic access through the course. However, you may need to manually enroll in or independently acquire other resources. Read the full instructions provided to ensure that you have access to all of your resources in a timely manner.

Automatically Enrolled Learning Resources

You will be automatically enrolled at the activity level for the following learning resources. Simply click on the links provided in the activities to access the learning materials.

VitalSource E-Texts

The following textbook is available to you as an e-text within this course. You will be directly linked to the specific readings required within the activities that follow.

- Nickitas, D. M., Middaugh, D. J., & Aries, N. (Eds.). (2016). [Policy and politics for nurses and other health professionals: Advocacy and action](#). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett. ISBN 978-1-284-05329-6

Note: These e-texts are available to you as part of your program tuition and fees, but you may purchase a hard copy at your own expense through VitalSource or a retailer of your choice. If you choose to do so, please use the ISBN listed to ensure that you receive the correct edition. The following sites provide instruction on how to use features such as downloading your e-texts for offline use and purchase a print-on-demand option, if available.

- [VitalSource Navigational Video](#)
- [Print-On-Demand Option](#)

Other Learning Resources

You will use multiple learning resources from public, international, and professional organizations. You will link to these as needed in the activities.

Ebook Central E-Books

The following textbook is available to you as an e-text within this course. You will be directly linked to the specific readings required within the activities that follow.

- Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing. (2011). [Future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health](#). Washington DC: National Academies Press. ISBN-10: 0-309-15823-0



Specific titles and links to these will be given as needed in the activities.

EBL e-books can be downloaded to your computer or mobile device. Follow the [instructions](#) to download your e-books for offline access.

Note: These e-texts are available to you as part of your program tuition and fees, but you may purchase hard copies at your own expense through a retailer of your choice. If you choose to do so, please use the ISBN listed to ensure that you receive the correct edition.

Nursing Standards

You will be able to access Nursing Professional Standards as they apply to your program through the WGU Library. Please access these documents at the following website:

- [WGU Library Nursing E-Reserves](#)

Topics and Pacing

This course overview suggests a balanced topic and pacing structure for completion of the required learning activities for Policy, Politics, and Global Health Trends. A block of learning generally relates to the amount of work the average student should be able to complete in roughly a week, however, we recognize that adjustments in time are common. Please use this as a guide to plan your own timelines for completion.

Block of Learning 1

Organization and Financing of Healthcare

- U.S. Healthcare System in Global Context
- Reform of U.S. Health Plans/Health Systems

Block of Learning 2

Policy Process

- Public Policymaking Structures and Processes in Healthcare

Block of Learning 3

Effects of Legal and Regulatory Policies

- Effects of Public Regulatory Policies

Block of Learning 4

Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses: Policy Positions

- Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses: Policy Positions



- Transforming Healthcare

Block of Learning 5

Advocating for Patients in Healthcare Policies

- Effective Strategies for Influencing, Analyzing, and Advocating for a Policy
- Interpret Research and Bring Nursing Perspective to Policy Makers

Block of Learning 6

Policy, Politics, and Global Health Trends Project

- Policy Development and Implementation

Getting Started

Welcome to Policy, Politics, and Global Trends! This course will introduce the key areas outlined in the Topics and Pacing guide. Each of these areas is considered essential in the profession and none of the topics covered in the course should be overlooked. The Learning Resources section describes the materials available to help you succeed. These will be linked under the various topics throughout the course.

This course will examine healthcare policy, politics, and global trends. A number of key issues related to these topics are also explored. The Topics and Pacing outline organizes the learning materials into convenient blocks of learning to help you begin, move through, and complete the course. The final Assessment for the course will measure your competencies with regards to foundational skills and knowledge across all of the content areas. You will need to be conversant in all these areas in order to communicate and collaborate effectively with your colleagues, and in order to succeed in the nursing profession.

Organization and Financing of Healthcare

Nurse leaders may work in many different types of healthcare organizations. No matter where you are, you will always have to understand the principles of that organization and the funding and resources available.

Glance through the list of topics for this course. Think about how they will relate to the performance assessments for the content of this course. Each topic will enhance your skills to complete the project. Keep your notes orderly so you can refer back to them.

U.S. Healthcare System in Global Context

This topic provides foundational knowledge about healthcare organizations. You may already know a lot about healthcare organizations in the United States, but it will be useful to become familiar with the many resources available. Through the activities in this topic, you will examine U.S. healthcare delivery and financing in public (local, state, and federal) and private sectors, and compare U.S. systems with systems in developing and developed nations. The



determinants of health and millennium goals provide a framework for understanding different approaches to top health issues.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.1: Organization and Financing Healthcare**

The graduate analyzes the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Summarize the major roles of the public sector (federal/state/local government) in delivering and financing healthcare in the United States.
- Identify the roles of the private sector in delivery and financing of healthcare in the United States.
- Compare types of U.S. healthcare plans based on their structure, mission, and financing.
- Compare and contrast unique features of the U.S. healthcare delivery and financing systems with healthcare delivery and financing systems of other nations.
- Evaluate contributing factors to major differences in health outcomes between the U.S. and those of other nations.

Review: Policy Vocabulary

Policies require precise wording. The following glossary can be used as a reference to help you understand the terms and acronyms used. Skim through the list and see if your understanding of common terms matches these explanations:

- [Alliance for Health Reform - Glossary](#)

Complete: The Federal Role in Healthcare Delivery and Financing

Summarize the federal role in healthcare delivery and financing in the United States based on the information you gather in the following readings in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals*:

- [chapter 14 \("Medicare: From Protector to Innovator"\)](#)
- [chapter 15 \("Medicaid and the Financing of Care for Vulnerable Populations: A Story of Misconceptions"\)](#)

Read: State and Local Roles in Healthcare Delivery and Financing

Skim the following chapters in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action*:

- [chapter 4 \("The Affordable Care Act: The Current Driver of Health Care Reform"\)](#)

Read the following article:



- Sirovich B., Gallagher, P., Wennberg, D., Fisher, E. (2008). [Discretionary Decision Making by Primary Care Physicians and the Cost of U.S. Health Care](#). Health Affairs, 27, no. 3.: 813-823

Compare: Medicare and Medicaid

Understanding the financing of healthcare through Medicare and Medicaid is critical. Compare differences in delivery and financing through Medicare and Medicaid between states. Use the following reading from *Policy and Politics for Nurses* as a resource:

- [chapter 12 \("Healthcare Costs: Follow the Money"\)](#)

Read: Private Health Coverage

Financing of healthcare in the U.S. includes private coverage. A progress review of insurance coverage can be read in the following article:

- Bumenthal, D. and Collins, S. (2014). [Health Care Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act – A Progress Report](#). New England Journal of Medicine, 371: 275-281

Skim these chapters in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action* for additional details:

- [chapter 12 \("Healthcare Costs: Follow the Money"\)](#)
- [chapter 13 \("Private Health Insurance Market"\)](#)

Compare: Private Health Insurance Plans

Private health insurance has many different models. Compare some of the top ranked plans in the United States. Scan the websites of at least three different plans from the link below and write brief descriptions of similarities and differences in Mission, Structure, and Balance of Employer vs. Employee Financing for the following categories:

1. Free for Service Example:

- Mission:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Structure:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Balance of Employer vs. Employee Financing:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:

2. HMO Example:



- Mission:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Structure:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Balance of Employer vs. Employee Financing:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:

3. PRO Example

- Mission:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Structure:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Balance of Employer vs. Employee Financing:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:

4. Employer Financed Example

- Mission:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Structure:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:
- Balance of Employer vs. Employee Financing:
Example 1:
Example 2:
Example 3:

5. Employee-Financed Example

- Mission:



Example 1:

Example 2:

Example 3:

- Structure:

Example 1:

Example 2:

Example 3:

- Balance of Employer vs. Employee Financing:

Example 1:

Example 2:

Example 3:

The resources below may assist you in completing your comparison:

- [Health Insurance Rankings](#)
- [Health Plans](#)

Read: Impact of the Affordable Care Act

Read the following report, and explain how the public sector delivery and financing of healthcare in the United States are linked with the Affordable Care Act:

- Bumenthal, D. and Collins, S. (2014). [Health Care Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act – A Progress Report](#). *New England Journal of Medicine*, 371: 275-281

Compare: Financing and Outcomes in the U.S. and Other Nations

Review the following in *Policy and Politics for Nurses*:

- [chapter 8 \(“Global Health: Policy, Politics, and Partners”\)](#)

Compare how the U.S., a developed nation, and a developing nation are addressing diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. Refer to the following resource to complete a table like this. Provide comments as needed, considering race, educational differences, etc.

1. Non-U.S. Developed Nation (name of country):

- Diabetes:
- Heart Disease:
- Obesity:
- Comments:

2. Developing Nation (name of country):

- Diabetes:
- Heart Disease:
- Obesity:
- Comments:



The resource below may assist you in completing your comparison:

- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Health Topics](#)

Compare: Health Goals and Delivery in the U.S. and Other Nations

Compare the health goals of WHO, Healthy People, and the 8 Millennium Development Goals (global health). Summarize the differences between the U.S. delivery of healthcare and that of other developed nations. What might the U.S. learn from developing and developed nations? Name two strengths of the U.S. system. Use the resources below:

- [Determinants of Health](#)
- [WHO: Global Health Risks](#)
- [The Eight Millennium Development Goals](#)

Reform of U.S. Health Plans/Health Systems

The Affordable Care Act has far-reaching implications regarding quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes. This topic compares various U.S. models and reforms, including: value-based purchasing, individual and employer mandates, Medicaid coverage and expansion, and insurance market regulation and implications for local communities. Health outcomes determine the bottom-line value of any health plan or system.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.1: Organization and Financing Healthcare**
The graduate analyzes the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Analyze the impact of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes.
- Analyze the impact of value based purchasing on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes.
- Analyze the impact of individual and employer mandates on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes.
- Analyze the impact of Medicaid coverage and expansion on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes.
- Identify the impact of insurance market regulation on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes.
- Discuss the implications of healthcare reform on health in your community.

Read: The Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the most sweeping reform of the U.S. healthcare system in a long time. Read the following documents to answer these questions considering quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes:



- What is different historically about the ACA?
- What are the key issues in ACA regarding individual mandates?
- What are the key issues regarding Medicaid expansion?

Read the following resource:

- [A Guide to the Supreme Court's Affordable Care Act Decision](#)

Review the following in *Policy and Politics for Nurses*:

- [chapter 7 \("Healthcare Quality"\)](#)

Research: Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act

Review the website below. Select two states that have different approaches to ACA's Medicaid expansion. Summarize the comparisons for the next few years using the timeline.

Consider the following issues in your responses:

- quality
- access to care
- cost
- health outcomes

Use the following resource:

- [State Medicaid and CHIP Profiles](#)

Apply: Accountable Care Organizations

Analyze the impact of Accountable Care Organizations on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes. Use the knowledge you gained in the previous activities and the following resource to complete the following:

1. Patient-centered Medical Homes:

- Positive Impact (actual or potential):
- Negative Impact (actual or potential):

2. Accountable Care Organizations:

- Positive Impact (actual or potential):
- Negative Impact (actual or potential):

3. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation:

- Positive Impact (actual or potential):
- Negative Impact (actual or potential):



Use the resources below:

- [Patient Centered Care](#)
- [Accountable Care Organizations](#)
- [Innovation Models](#)

Apply: Employer Mandates

Describe how employer mandates impact quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes. Give specific examples.

Use the following resource:

- [Employer Responsibility Under the Affordable Care Act](#)

1. Quality

- Example 1 (e.g. maternity mandates):
- Example 2:
- Example 3:

2. Access to Care

- Example 1 (e.g. maternity mandates):
- Example 2:
- Example 3:

3. Cost

- Example 1 (e.g. maternity mandates):
- Example 2:
- Example 3:

4. Health Outcomes

- Example 1 (e.g. maternity mandates):
- Example 2:
- Example 3:

Read: Medicaid Expansion

Summarize the five key questions about Medicaid expansion. Describe the impact of Medicaid coverage and expansion on the following issues:

- quality
- access to care
- cost
- health outcomes for communities of color



Read the following resources:

- [Health Affairs Health Policy Brief](#) (2012), Medicaid Reform
- [Five Key Questions About Medicaid and Its Role in State/Federal Budgets and Health Reform](#)

Read: Insurance Market Regulation

Summarize the impact of insurance market regulation on quality, access to care, cost, and health outcomes. Identify potential positive and negative impacts.

Review the foundation information in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action*:

- [chapter 13 \(“Private Health Insurance Market”\)](#)

Self-Check: ACA

Apply the knowledge gained from your readings and activities to summarize the impact of healthcare reform in your community. Review the information you’ve gathered from the previous websites. Consider the following issues in your responses:

- quality
- access to care
- cost
- health outcomes

The following resource also may be helpful:

- [The Affordable Care Act: Improving Incentives for Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment](#)

Policy Process

Many different groups are involved in healthcare policy making. Every group, and every individual in a group, has foundational values that they try to promote through policies. They all must follow specific rules and processes to move policies from ideas to implementation.

Public Policymaking Structures and Processes in Healthcare

Your project will involve active participation in policy development and implementation. This topic addresses the processes involved in developing healthcare policies and how values (personal, political, social, economic), and technological factors impact public policy. The role of nursing (past, present, and future) related to healthcare policy and Affordable Care Act health outcomes will be explored.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.2: Policy Process**
The graduate analyzes the historical, economic, and political, factors that affect health



care policy development and the impact of those policies on healthcare cost, quality and access.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Identify key stages of the public policymaking process.
- Identify the role of the governmental branches, professional organizations and special interest groups in the development of public policy.
- Identify the past, present, and future role of nursing in public policy development.
- Compare and contrast the relationships between progressive and regressive policies and their effects on costs.
- Identify how political, social, economic, and technological factors, and personal values impact public policymaking.
- Analyze the impact of the Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act on healthcare incentives and current healthcare delivery in the U.S.

Research: Getting a Policy into Law

Read the following in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action*:

- [chapter 2 \(“Policy and Politics Explained”\)](#)

Describe the process to enact a law using a top-down approach. Select a health policy issue on the ANA (American Nurses Association) website as an example.

Watch the following video: [Schoolhouse Crock - ANA](#)

Note: View the video in full screen at 720p for best results.

Apply: Bottom-Up Approach

Describe the policymaking process using a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach.

Use the following resource:

- Pages 7-15, 47-60, and 66 in [“Promoting Healthy Public Policy through Community-Based Participatory Research: Ten Case Studies”](#)

Apply: Summarize Policy Stages

Identify key policy stages and fill these in the top row of the table below. Add columns as needed; for example, the first steps may be: 1) bill is introduced, 2) committee hearings, 3) floor action, etc.

Give examples of how legislative, executive structures, interest groups, and professional organizations work in this process.



1. Legislative:

- Policy Stages:
- Examples of group process:

2. Executive Structures:

- Policy Stages:
- Examples of group process:

3. Private Interest groups (provide a name, e.g., AARP):

- Policy Stages:
- Examples of group process:

4. Professional organizations (provide a name, e.g., ANA):

- Policy Stages:
- Examples of group process:

Use the following resources:

- [Guide to the Legislative Process and Impacting Change at the Federal, State, and Local Levels](#)

Apply: Nurses' Impact on Policy Making

Summarize nursing contributions to healthcare policy development. Select two current and two historical nurses as examples.

Use the following resources for additional examples:

- [Florence Nightingale and Public Health Policy: Theory, Activism and Public Administration](#)
- [Strengthening Public Health Nursing—Part II How Nurse Leaders in Policymaking Positions Are Transforming Public Health](#)

Self-Check: Review

You will need many of the skills from this topic to complete the performance assessment. Be sure that you have a broad and firm foundation and can apply these skills.

Effects of Legal and Regulatory Policies

Every policy is created with the intent to have an effect. Hopefully, every policy is implemented with the intent of improving health and healthcare of patients and populations. In this topic you will look at how policies affect nursing practices.

Effects of Public Regulatory Policies



This topic addresses how the roles and functions of national, state, regulatory agencies and private organizations impact the nursing profession, healthcare safety, and quality improvement.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.3: Effects of Legal and Regulatory Policies**

The graduate analyzes the effect of major legal and regulatory policies on nursing practice, healthcare delivery, and health outcomes for individual, families, and communities.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Analyze the impact of national healthcare legislation on healthcare and the profession of nursing.
- Identify how states regulate healthcare and the profession of nursing.
- Identify the roles and functions of major healthcare regulators in the U.S.
- Identify the roles and functions of major healthcare-related private organizations, such as accreditors and professional groups in the U.S.
- Identify public policies related to healthcare safety, quality improvement, and the organizations initiating them.

Research: National Healthcare Legislation

Policies from many regulatory and professional organizations impact healthcare legislation.

Choose three of the agencies listed below and provide examples of how they impact both healthcare and the profession of nursing:

- [The Joint Commission \(TJC\) \(formerly JCAHO\)](#)
- [State Law & Regulation](#)
- [American Academy of Nursing](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [American Nurses Association Policy and Advocacy](#)

Research: State Regulations

Describe the ways that states regulate both healthcare and the profession of nursing. Provide examples of the differences between two states.

The following chapters in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action* are a good place to start:

- [chapter 7 \("Healthcare Quality"\)](#)
- [chapter 9 \("Population Health: Vulnerable Populations' Access to Care"\)](#)
- [chapter 15 \("Medicaid and the Financing of Care for Vulnerable Populations: A Story of Misconceptions"\)](#)



Reflect: Major Policy Influencers

You've seen from the many links provided so far in this course that there are many organizations that impact policy making and regulation. Summarize your readings from previous activities.

Identify the main regulators, voluntary organizations, and professional organizations that impact healthcare legislation and describe their roles. Complete the following:

1. Names of REGULATOR organizations that impact healthcare legislation (e.g. Boards of Nursing, The Joint Commission, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS], WHO, etc.)

- Regulatory Organization & role:
- Regulatory Organization & role:
- Regulatory Organization & role:
- Regulatory Organization & role:

2. Names of VOLUNTARY organizations that impact healthcare legislation (e.g. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, MADD, etc.)

- Voluntary Organization & role:
- Voluntary Organization & role:
- Voluntary Organization & role:
- Voluntary Organization & role:

3. Names of PROFESSIONAL organizations that impact healthcare legislation (e.g. IHI, QSEN, ANCC, etc.)

- Professional Organization & role:
- Professional Organization & role:
- Professional Organization & role:
- Professional Organization & role:

Read: Safety and Quality Improvement Policies

Some of the organizations you reviewed above primarily base their policy positions on safety and quality improvement.

Review the resources below and provide examples of how each agency impacts public policies related to healthcare safety and quality improvement:

- [Institute of Healthcare Improvement \(IHI\)](#)
- [QSEN](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#)



Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses: Policy Positions

Ethics is an integral part of the foundation of nursing. These ethics apply to policies as well as nursing practices.

Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses: Policy Positions

This topic examines ethical principles that underpin policy positions and ways that nurses can utilize both top-down and bottom-up approaches to promote policy changes.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.4: Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses' Policy Positions**
The graduate analyzes the values that drive policies.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Analyze how ethical principles drive policy.
- Assess the impact of healthcare policies on reimbursement systems.
- Analyze the impact of social justice on healthcare policy.
- Identify how the Millennium Development Goals shape public policy.

Read: Code of Ethics for Nurses

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has addressed the ethics of nursing in several categories, both general and specific.

Review this document of the general Nursing Code of Ethics and the document specific to genetics and genomics:

- [Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements](#)
- [Essential Genetic and Genomic Competencies for Nurses with Graduate Degrees](#)

Apply: Ethical Principles

Motivations for attempting to influence healthcare policies may be varied, but can be broadly categorized by their underlying ethical principles. These ethical principles include:

- autonomy (individual right to make choices)
- beneficence (to do good)
- non-maleficence (to do no harm)
- justice (treating people fairly)
- utilitarian (best overall result)
- duty (conform to overriding moral duty)

Review the resource below:

- [ANA Ethical Theories and Principles](#)



Consider how each of these ethical principles apply to examples from your own practice.



Read: Policy Effects on Reimbursement Systems

No matter what the focus or foundational principles of a policy, it will almost always include a financial impact. The variety of reimbursement systems in the U.S. complicates the financial impact.

Complete the readings below. Assess the cost/benefit impact for the following three reimbursement models:

- universal access to care
- single payer system
- pay equity for advanced practice nurses

Use examples to support your points. Use the following resources:

- [The CBO on the ACA](#)
- [ANA Key Provisions Related to Nursing](#)

1. Universal Access to Care:

- Cost Impact with Examples
- Benefit Impact with Examples

2. Single Payer System:

- Cost Impact with Examples
- Benefit Impact with Examples

3. Pay Equity for APRNs:

- Cost Impact with Examples
- Benefit Impact with Examples

Case Study: Social Justice Ethics

Read the resources below. Analyze how social justice was used to promote health Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) policy. Identify strengths and challenges of using a CBPR approach to impact health policy. Compare this with the purpose of the Millennium goals in impacting health and related policies.

Read five of these case studies:

- pages 19-44 in [Promoting Healthy Public Policy through Community-Based Participatory Research: Ten Case Studies](#)

Research the Fast Facts and success stories of each one of the Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Action:



- [The Eight Millennium Development Goals](#)

Self-Check: Review

Reflect on the knowledge gained from your readings and activities to summarize the impact and application of healthcare ethics in your community. Be ready to apply this knowledge as this will be a part of your performance assessment.

Transforming Healthcare

This topic will help you evaluate your own personal values that govern your nursing views and behaviors. You'll also compare your values with others who may see the world differently than you do and apply ethics differently.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.4: Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses' Policy Positions**
The graduate analyzes the values that drive policies.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Describe how the foundation for and network of your personal values relates to a healthcare policy.
- Differentiate between policy differences and political power struggles in a given nursing leadership situation.

Research: Gathering Information from Op-Ed Writers

Review at least five of the op-ed columns in the resources below. Choose a variety of viewpoints, especially some authors that you are not familiar with. Answer the following questions:

- Which editors align most closely with your own values?
- Which editors diverge most from your own values?
- Which editors are more "neutral" to you?
- What ethical principles or theories underpin the editors' positions?

Consider how your values have shaped your approaches to the readings thus far in the course and conversely, how (if at all) any of the authors/readings have challenged your positions. Use the following pages to access various op-ed writers and their comments on healthcare:

- [David Brooks \(center-right\)](#)
- [E. J. Dionne \(liberal\)](#)
- [William Kristol \(neo-conservative; Editor The Weekly Standard\)](#)
- [Paul Krugman \(liberal; Nobel prize in economics\)](#)
- [Mortimer Zuckerman \(conservative; Editor of U.S. News & World Report\)](#)
- [Maureen Dowd](#)
- [Dana Milbank \(liberal\)](#)

Reflect: Personal Values



Op-ed writers may influence clarification and evolution of your own personal values. Other groups and organizations may also influence your values.

Complete the following as you read the resources below:

- Make notes of two policy differences and two political power struggles related to the nursing profession.
- Identify the values and ethical principles that underpin the examples.
- Are any of these issues evident in your work environment?

Read these parts of *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* for foundation information:

- [Front Matter Summary](#)
- pages 21-45 in [chapter 1 \("Key Messages of the Report"\)](#)
- pages 221-254 in [chapter 5 \("Transforming Leadership"\)](#)

Check the following resource for specific issues:

- Top 5 Issues for Nurses 2015

Advocating for Patients in Healthcare Policies

Nurses are required to be patient advocates as part of their licensure and as part of the nursing profession code of ethics. That advocacy helps nurses to influence healthcare policies and their impact on individuals, families, and communities.

Effective Strategies for Influencing, Analyzing, and Advocating for a Policy

Now you will put the foundational knowledge that you've acquired into practice. This topic addresses practical strategies for influencing policies and includes analyzing both the issues and the effectiveness of a plan or proposal to address nursing practice or patient care.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.5: Advocate for Policies that Improve the Health of the Public and the Profession of Nursing**

The graduate analyzes strategies that healthcare advocates use to affect policies with the goal of improving the public health and the profession of nursing.

This topic relates to the following objectives:

- Identify various strategies for influencing public policymaking at the local, state, and national levels.
- Develop a plan for influencing a healthcare policy within the state or national organizations.
- Conduct an analysis of a current issue related to nursing or healthcare.



- Evaluate a political advocacy plan or administrative proposal supporting or opposing legislation affecting nursing practice or patient care.

Apply: Strategies for Influencing Policymaking

Your performance assessment requires you to actively engage in advocating policies. This activity introduces strategies that will help you focus your efforts for the project.

Think about the health issue that you've selected for your project. While you read the following resources, note how the issue could be addressed from a "bottom-up" approach such as in CBPR or how it could be addressed from a "top-down" approach. Use the toolkits and resources to support your answers.

Review these chapters from *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action*:

- [chapter 3 \("A Policy Toolkit for Healthcare Providers and Activists"\)](#)

Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health includes some direct strategies:

- pages 47-81 in [chapter 2 \("Study Context"\)](#)
- pages 221- 254 in [chapter 5 \("Transforming Leadership"\)](#)

Use these resources for additional examples:

- [Preventing Chronic Disease: The New Public Health](#)
- [NLN toolkit](#)

Prepare: Develop a Plan

These resources will help you define your plan of action:

- [Health in all Policies toolkit](#)

Interpret Research and Bring Nursing Perspective to Policy Makers

This topic addresses how nursing research can be presented to policy makers with the purpose of improving healthcare.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 7007.1.5: Advocate for Policies that Improve the Health of the Public and the Profession of Nursing**

The graduate analyzes strategies that healthcare advocates use to affect policies with the goal of improving the public health and the profession of nursing.

This topic relates to the following objectives:



- Evaluate research related to nursing policies aimed at improving healthcare delivery and professional nursing practice.
- Explain how patient outcomes or nursing practice are shaped by current health policy research.

Read: Health Services Research

Policy proposals are stronger when they are backed by research. Read this chapter in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action* for some background information:

- [chapter 5 \(“Nurses: Leading Change to Improve Health and Health Care”\)](#)

Evaluate: ANA Policy Proposal

The American Nurses Association has proposed action on nurse staffing ratios. Review the website below and evaluate a proposal that supports or opposes legislation regarding nurse staffing plans and ratios. Consider both workforce safety and patient outcomes.

- [ANA Proposed Action on Nurse Staffing Plans & Ratios](#)

Complete: Writing a Policy Proposal

You have examined many resources to use as you influence policy and advocate for patients. This final activity includes some straightforward tools not only for your assessment project but also for your continued involvement in healthcare policymaking.

Review and use this chapter in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action* to ensure that you have all the components for your project:

- [chapter 3 \(“A Policy Toolkit for Healthcare Providers and Activists”\)](#)

This resource will help you see how policy can be expanded for international influence:

- [A Student's Guide to Writing in Societies of the World 24](#)

Self-Check: Your Performance Assessment

Your performance assessment requires you to actively engage in advocating policies. Review your notes from this course as you choose and complete your performance assessment.

Policy, Politics, and Global Health Trends Project

All of the work you completed relevant to completing the performance assessment for this course.

Policy Development and Implementation

For this assessment, you will actively participate in policy development and implementation in order to advocate for policies that improve the health of the public and/or the nursing profession. Over the course of your project, you will utilize both a top-down and a bottom-up approach, bringing the nursing perspective to policy makers and stakeholders. You will identify the values



and ethical perspectives that underpin your position and you will develop criteria to evaluate the success of your work. At the conclusion of the assessment, you will have developed and completed a policy brief that can be sent to decision makers and developed a plan to work with an organization or a community to promote policy change at the local level.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 7007.1.1: Organization and Financing Healthcare**
The graduate analyzes the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations.
- **Competency 7007.1.2: Policy Process**
The graduate analyzes the historical, economic, and political factors that effect healthcare policy development and the impact of those policies on healthcare cost, quality, and access.
- **Competency 7007.1.3: Effects of Legal and Regulatory Policies**
The graduate analyzes the effect of major legal and regulatory policies on nursing practice, healthcare delivery, and health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.
- **Competency 7007.1.4: Ethical Theories Applied to Nurses' Policy Positions**
The graduate analyzes the values that drive policies.
- **Competency 7007.1.5: Advocate for Policies that Improve the Health of the Public and the Profession of Nursing**
The graduate analyzes strategies that healthcare advocates use to effect policies with the goal of improving the public health and the profession of nursing.

Self-Check: Review Your Course Notes

Take time to review the content you studied while working through this course. The content you already studied will be required for successful completion of this project, so you are encouraged to review all materials carefully.

Organize the notes that are most relevant to your own practice situation. You may even have notes specifically related to the project you want to do.

Complete: Outline Your Project

Use the toolkit in the chapter below in *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action* to ensure that you have all the components for your project:

- [chapter 3 \("A Policy Toolkit for Healthcare Providers and Activists"\)](#)

Follow the steps below to complete the project assessment. First, you will write a reflection on the following:

- Why you selected the health or nursing profession policy issue.
- Your values and the ethical positions that underpin your perspectives.
- The criteria you will use to evaluate the success (outcomes) of your proposed policy



change.

You will then write a policy brief for policy makers or stakeholders on a health or nursing profession issue with the purpose of initiating or supporting a top-down approach to policy.

Support your position with nursing research. Finally, create a plan from a bottom-up approach to promote a policy change within a community or organization utilizing the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR). Please use the same issue throughout your project.

Complete: Task 1 Performance Task

Complete the following task in Taskstream:

- Policy, Politics & Global Health Trends: Task 1

For details about this performance assessment, see the "Assessment" tab in this course.

Final Steps

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessment associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessments, schedule and complete them now.