Your competence will be assessed as you complete the HFT2 and HGC2 performance assessments for this course of study. This course of study represents 3 competency units and may take up to 12 weeks to complete.

**Introduction**

**Overview**
In this course you will learn about healthcare policy, governmental agencies involved in healthcare policy, legislative processes, healthcare policy development and the effect on healthcare delivery and clinical practice, policy analysis, special interest groups, media, characteristics of the healthcare delivery system, national healthcare delivery and trends, and wellness.

**Outcomes and Evaluation**
At the end of your course work, you will complete two performance tasks in Taskstream.

There are 7 competencies covered by this course of study; they are listed in the "Competencies for Healthcare Policy, Organization, and Finance (HFT2) and (HGC2)" page.

You will complete the following assessments as you work through the course of study.

**Performance Assessment**
You will complete the following performance assessment in TaskStream:

- HFT2
- HGC2

Previews of task instructions and rubrics for this assessment are available in via the 'Assessment Preparation' box in the online course of study.

**Nursing Dispositions Statement**
Please review the Statement of Nursing Dispositions.

**Preparing for Success**

The information in this section is provided to help you become ready to complete this course of study. As you proceed, you will need to be organized in your studies, competent in the indicated areas, and ready to pass the final assessments.

**Your Learning Resources**
Enroll in or order the learning resources for this course as early as possible so as to give them time to arrive and give you enough time to become familiar with them.

**Enroll in Learning Resources**
You will need to enroll in or subscribe to additional learning resources as a part of this course of study.

You may already have enrolled in these resources for other courses. Please check the "Learning Resources" tab and verify that you have access to the following learning resources. If you do not currently have access, please enroll or renew your enrollment at this time.

*Note: For instructions on how to enroll in or subscribe to learning resources through the "Learning Resources" tab, please see the "Acquiring Your Learning Resources" page.*

**E-Text**
The following e-text is available for enrollment through the Learning Resources tab:


*Note: This e-text is available to you free of charge, 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.*

**KaiserEDU.org**
*KaiserEDU.org* is the website for tutorials on healthcare policy and finances. You will be directed to go to the website to access the various tutorials in this course of study.

All tutorials are free and do not require further enrollment.

**CE Direct**
Enroll in CE Direct if you have not previously enrolled in another course. You only need to enroll once. After you are enrolled through the Learning Resources tab on this course you will receive access information in an email.

In order to access the assigned items in CE Direct, follow these instructions:

1. Access the [CE Direct website](#)
2. Log in with your account information
3. Use the Search feature to locate the item by number or title
4. Click the item in the search results to load the material and begin

**Additional Preparation**
There are many different learning tools available to you within your course of study...
in addition to the learning resources discussed above. Some or all of them may be very useful to you as your progress through this course of study. Take the time to familiarize yourself with them and determine how best to fit them into your learning process.

The following activities and information will help you as you work through this course of study.

**Message Boards, Learning Communities, Study Notes, FAQs**

Message boards, learning communities, study notes, and FAQs are available in every course of study.

Use the "Additional Learning Tools" document to review these tools.

**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](#)

**Healthcare Policy, Organization and Finance**

In this section, you will be introduced to the major concepts and issues related to healthcare policy development and evaluation of the factors that impact legislation and the enactment of policies.

Nurses need to have knowledge about legislative and regulatory processes to be able to make their voices heard during the legislative process. There have been outstanding nursing leaders in government, both elected and appointed, who have contributed greatly to the development of healthcare policy.

**Competencies covered by this subject**

712.1.1 - Regulatory Processes

The graduate understands legislative and regulatory processes.

**Legislative and Regulatory Processes**

"The true test of the American ideal is whether we’re able to recognize our failings and then rise together to meet the challenges of our time. Whether we allow ourselves to be shaped by events and history, or whether we act to shape them" (President Barack Obama, 2010).

On March 23, 2010 President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, (PPACA) now known simply as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law and 10 days later signed a reconciliation bill to fine-tune it. The law is arguably the most significant piece of social legislation passed in the United States since Medicare was implemented in 1965. Nurses are well positioned for reforming health care that will promote healthier public and reduce health care costs. Nurses
must now rise up to be strategic leaders embracing change, moving forward healthcare reform.

Consider the following:

- What are some of the major opportunities and challenges you envision for nurses related to the passage of this new piece of social legislation?

**Initial Concept Map: Healthcare Policy**

Construct a concept map to describe your past experiences with the legislative or regulatory processes. Compare your past experiences with major opportunities and challenges you envision in healthcare reform.

**Government Websites**

Conduct an Internet search to identify health policy websites that contain real-time information concerning health policy. Gather information on the roles of federal governmental agencies and make a quick reference table that you can use when you need to quickly find information on health policy.


- What are the primary governmental agencies and their functions related to healthcare policy?

**How a Bill Becomes a Law**

Access the WGU Library and the appropriate search engine to retrieve, read and evaluate how a bill becomes a law

Select the proper agencies from your table to search for current bills at the state or national level concerning healthcare.

- What is the position of your local state or national elected officials based on one bill you identified in your search?

**Evaluation of sources that affect health care policy**

Successful health policies are more likely to be couched in terms of cost containment than in improved or expanded access and reducing or eliminating health disparities. However, cost-related policies are likely to have very little impact on improving the quality of care or reducing health disparities.

- Based on your research, do you agree or disagree? Please explain.
Now, read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 1 ("A Framework for Action in Policy and Politics")
- chapter 2 ("A Historical Perspective on Policy, Politics, and Nursing")
- chapter 3 ("Learning the Ropes of Policy, Politics, and advocacy")

**Using Search Engines and Creating Discussion Threads**

Access Medline through the WGU Library and retrieve three peer-reviewed articles that discuss nursing's role past, present and future, in the delivery of healthcare in America.

Review each article to evaluate the impact nursing has had upon healthcare delivery. Go to the Healthcare Policy, Organization, and Finance Message Board and initiate or engage in a healthcare policy discussion thread.

**Healthcare Policy: Final Concept Map and Reflection**

Consider the following questions:

- Have your views about healthcare policy changed?
- If so, how would you change or add to your concept map?
- What are your thoughts about the legislative and regulatory processes now?
- Have your perceptions changed since performing these exercises?

Go back to your initial concept map and make any necessary changes. Make comments on the message board or in your notes.

**Impact of Health Policies on Clinical Practice and Healthcare Delivery**

Nurses who are leaders need to have knowledge about policy analysis, conflict, and the factors that impact healthcare legislation and implementation. Also, it is important for nurse leaders to know about trends in past legislative processes regarding healthcare and communication with those responsible for enacting legislation so that nurse leaders can apply this knowledge to advocating better healthcare laws.

Competencies covered by this subject

712.1.2 - Policy Development

The graduate understands how local, state, national, and international health policies are formulated and how health policy impacts clinical practice and healthcare delivery.

**Impact of Health Policies on Clinical Practice and Healthcare Delivery**

You have been asked to participate on a policy committee to revise the standing orders for emergency care. You are concerned that some of the people on the committee are not considering the impact new or revised policies will have on
nursing care. What can you do to prepare for the committee meeting and to see that your nursing concerns are heard?

**Initial Concept Map**

What do you know about health care policies and how they impact nursing practice? Develop a concept map showing all you know about health care policies and how they impact nursing practice.

**Readings and Creating Discussion Threads**

Consider the following questions:

- Who makes policy?
- Identify the roles of each branch of government in policy development.
- How does nursing fit into this process?

**Analysis of the Inputs and Outputs of the Health Policy Development Process**

Access and evaluate the "Health Policy Analysis Checklist".

- What are the inputs, processes and outputs for health policy development?

Utilizing the input-process-output model, identify the inputs/outputs and processes utilized in health policy development.

**Policy Analysis Process**

Go to the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 7 ("The Political Process")
- chapter 8 ("Political Analysis and Strategies")
- chapter 85 ("The Raise the Voice Campaign: Nurse-Led Innovations changing Public Policy")
- chapter 86 ("Coalitions: A Powerful Political Strategy")

Identify a health care policy problem in your area of interest and write a Policy Issue Paper (example on page 55 Mason textbook) that you would use to prepare for a meeting with your congressman. Be sure to include the role of coalitions in your issue paper.

Go to the Health Care Policy, Finance and Organization Message board and post or add to a discussion regarding your policy problem outlined in your Policy Issue Paper.

**Readings and creating discussion threads on Research in Policy Development**

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:
Consider your previously identified health care policy of interest included in your policy issue paper you prepared for a meeting with your congressman.

What impact does research have on your policy of interest?

Enter or add a discussion thread to the Health Care Policy, Finance and Organization Message board on the role of research in policy development specific to your policy issue paper

**Examining Conflict Management strategies for health care professionals**

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 12 ("Conflict Management in Health Care: The Tipping Point Arrives")

Skills in managing conflict are imperative to policy and politics as well as, workforce environments. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) refers to processes used to resolve disputes, make decisions, or improve relationship outcomes. It is rooted in international diplomacy practices.

Identify strategies for conflict management found in ADR. Give an example of one conflict and one strategy you might apply.

Explain how the conflicts were resolved or could be resolved by using these strategies.

**Examining the Roles of Media, special interest groups, and professional organizations in influencing policy**

Harnessing the new social media will provide myriad opportunities for nurses to shape public policy and engage in political activism. In this new cyberworld it is up to nurses to ensure that their voices are heard.

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 10 ("Using the Power of Media to Influence Health Policy and Politics")
- chapter 81 ("Interest Groups in Health Care Policy and Politics")
- chapter 82 ("Current Issues In Nursing Organizations")
- chapter 83 ("Professional Nursing Associations: Meeting Needs of Nurses and the Profession")
- chapter 90 ("The Politics of the Pharmaceutical Industry")
Consider the following:

- How do you harness the power of the media to influence policy?
- What are the various methods that nurses can use as ways to get their message heard?

Create a table listing the various media options and the rationale that supports the effective use and target audience for each selection.

Prepare a media release for your identified healthcare policy issue selecting one of the possible media options identified in your table (Twitter, YouTube, Blog, Facebook, Newspaper, etc.).

**Use of Effective Communication Methods**

Nursing education does not always prepare nurses to communicate effectively in some social situations, such as high-level meetings, political engagements, and formal affairs.

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 11 ("Communication Skills for Success in Policy and Politics")

What is different about communication skills for political success?

Write a sample letter to your local legislator to determine his or her position on the health care policy problem you identified or make an appointment with your local elected official (state or national) and interview him/her to determine his or her position on the health care policy problem you identified.

**Identifying the regulatory and quality controls in healthcare**

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 65 ("An overview of Legislation and Regulation")
- chapter 66 ("Nursing Licensure and Regulation")
- chapter 48 ("Quality and Safety in Health Care: Policy Issues")

There are several governmental agencies which regulate Health care quality. Refer to your textbook to create a table of the most prominent agencies that regulate the quality of health care including their specific focus.

What type of regulatory focus does each agency address?

- Does the agency use national standards or data to evaluate quality of health care?
- What happens if the quality falls below the benchmarks?

**Identifying National Healthcare Issues and Trends**
Use an internet search to identify current US Congressional members who are nurses.

- What are their positions on national health care issues?
- Are they different from your local legislator's positions?

Go to the Health Care Policy, Finance and Organization Message board and initiate or add to a discussion thread.

Discuss one US congressional nurse member and their impact on a related health care issue.

- What exemplifies their political position and leadership success?

**Final Concept Map and Reflection**

Review your concept map.

Modify or add to your map.

- How have your views changed concerning the impact of health policies on clinical practice and healthcare delivery?

**U.S. Healthcare Delivery**

Nurses need to have knowledge about how U.S. healthcare is delivered, how it compares to the healthcare delivery in other countries, and what its future needs are.

Competencies covered by this subject

712.2.1 - US Healthcare Delivery System

The graduate understands how healthcare is delivered in the United States.

**U.S. Healthcare Delivery System**

Many people feel that the U.S. healthcare system has failed them. They complain that it is expensive and selective. On the other hand, individuals from other countries often come to the United States to receive care that is unavailable in their homeland or that is far superior.

- If you were drawn into a discussion of the U.S. healthcare delivery system, what would you say?
- How can you be sure that your answers reflect a realistic understanding built on sound principles rather than an emotional reaction to an experience you or your family has had?

**Healthcare Delivery System: Initial Concept Map**

Complete the following:

Draw a concept map regarding your perceptions of the U.S. healthcare delivery
Considering the following questions:

- **What are the current characteristics of the healthcare delivery system in the U.S.?**
- **Identify the main objectives of the current U.S. healthcare delivery system.**

Consider the following question:

- **What do you envision as radical change for the future of nursing in the current healthcare delivery system?**

Complete the following:

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 13 ("The United States Health Care System")
- chapter 14 ("Financing Health Care in the United States")
- chapter 15 ("Could a National Health System Work in the United States?")
- chapter 16 ("A Primer on Health Economics")

Go to the Healthcare Policy, Organization, and Finance Message Board and enter your comments in a discussion thread.

Analyze the historical developments that shaped the nature of the U.S. healthcare delivery system and explore some of the recent developments that will likely shape the delivery of health services in the future.

**Emerging trends in Healthcare Delivery Systems**

The U. S. health care system presents three challenges: lowering costs improving access and improving quality. The nurses’ role in this paradigm is to support solutions that have the fewest tradeoffs between costs, access and quality yet improves all three. A recent movement in meeting the challenges is integrative health.

Consider the following:

- **How might integrative health lead to health reform and a healthier nation while addressing costs, access and quality?**

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 27 ("Integrative Health: Pathway to Health Reform and a Healthier Nation")
Consider the following:

- How will integrative health care impact practice in various practice settings, such as, community, long term care, acute and chronic care, critical care, to name a few?
- Will integrative health provide assurance of quality outcomes?

Go to the Healthcare Policy, Organization, and Finance Message Board and enter your comments in a discussion thread.

**Analysis of Future Needs for Health Services**

The types of skills and knowledge required to meet the changing needs of the labor force involved in delivery of health care services is rapidly changing.

Read the following in the Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care text:

- chapter 47 ("Policy and Politics in the Contemporary Work Environment")
- chapter 49 ("The Nursing Workforce")
- chapter 50 ("Nursing Education Policy: The unending Debate over Entry into Practice and the New Debate over Doctoral Degrees")
- chapter 51 ("The Politics of Advanced Practice Nursing")
- chapter 52 ("Global Nurse Migration")
- chapter 56 ("Workplace Abuse in Nursing: Policy Strategies")
- chapter 61 ("Collective Bargaining in Nursing")
- chapter 62 ("Workplace Advocacy")

Considering the following:

- What does will the nursing workforce look like in the next 20 years based on the changing face of health care delivery and the educational preparation needed to rise to these challenges?

Go to the Healthcare Policy, Organization, and Finance Message Board and enter your comments in a discussion thread.

**Healthcare Delivery System: Final Concept Map and Reflection**

Reflect on whether and how your initial thoughts and feelings have changed. Make changes to your concept map if necessary.

Consider the following question:

- What is the paradigm of the future for healthcare delivery in the U.S.?
- What is the paradigm shift for the role of the nurse in this environment?

**Influencing Factors in Healthcare Delivery**
Nurses need to have knowledge about the factors that shape and influence U.S. healthcare delivery, including technology, changing demographics, the care of emerging and existing vulnerable populations, and the impact of chronic disease on healthcare resources.

Various ethical principles can be used to guide decisions pertaining to the just and fair allocation of healthcare in individual circumstances. This broad concern about equitable access to health services is addressed by the theories referred to as market justice and social justice. Identify strategies to improve health and reduce disparities.

Competencies covered by this subject
712.2.2 - Influencing Factors
The graduate understands how healthcare is delivered in the United States.

Influencing Factors
Finances are often seen as the primary factor influencing healthcare. However, healthcare delivery may also be affected by social factors. The nurse needs to understand factors that influence healthcare delivery in order to be a vital link in healthcare policy decisions.

Primary Factors Influencing Healthcare: Initial Concept Map

Review the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 92 ("An Introduction to Community Activism")
- chapter 101 ("Nursing in the International Community: A Broader View of Nursing Issues")

Draw a concept map regarding your perceptions about the topic social justice.

- What social factors have you encountered that influenced healthcare delivery in your facility? Characterize these influences.
- Are these social factors positive or negative and why?

Go to the message board and initiate or add to a discussion thread providing an example of this interrelationship from your professional practice.

Discussion About Factors Shaping U.S. Healthcare Delivery System

Review the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 2 ("A Historical Perspective on Policy, Politics, and Nursing")

What are some of the social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors which influence the U.S. healthcare system?

- Discuss what impact nursing has had on these factors.
- How is nursing influencing these factors today?
Changing U.S. Demographics

Read the following in the Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care text:

- chapter 91 ("Where the Policy Hits the Pavement: Contemporary Issues in Communities")

Consider the following:

- What dimensions of community health suggest needs and opportunities for nurses to be involved in setting the policy agenda to promote and sustain health?
- What traditional boundaries of health policy are needed to support the health of communities?

Discussion About the Effects of Increasingly Elderly Populations on Healthcare Delivery System

Read the following in the Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care text:

- chapter 13 ("Review: The United Health Care system")
- chapter 24 ("Long Term Care Policy Issues")
- chapter 25 ("Home Care and Hospice: Evolving Policy")

Consider the following:

- With the increasing elderly population and the future increased draw on resources what changes in the ACA address the potential challenges ahead for delivery of healthcare services to this population?

Discussion About the Effects of Chronic Diseases and Co-Morbidities on Healthcare Delivery Systems

Read the following in the Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care text:

- chapter 29 ("Chronic Care Policy: Medical Homes and Primary Care")

Access the list of Kaiser Tutorials on the KaiserEDU site.

Under the topic Minority & Health, you will find the tutorial "RACE, ETHNICITY, AND HEALTH CARE" (Cara James, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst, Kaiser Family Foundation, August 2007).

Complete the tutorial and answer the following questions:

- Review your admissions data for your facility.
- What percentage of admissions is due to exacerbation of chronic illnesses?
- How can nurses intervene in the reduction/prevention of these
re-admissions?

- How does age & ethnicity affect health care?

**Influencing Factors: Final Concept Map and Reflection**

Reflect on whether your initial thoughts and feelings have changed. Make changes to your concept map if necessary. Reflect upon your initial questions.

Consider the following:

- Would you characterize these influences differently? In what way? Please explain.

**Changing Role of the Nurse**

Nurse leaders need to understand their own and other's beliefs about health and wellness, including the skills and knowledge needed to practice in the community, issues of disease prevention, and the need to focus on positive healthcare outcomes.

Competencies covered by this subject

712.2.3 - Changing Role of the Nurse

The graduate understands the changing role of the nurse in an evolving healthcare delivery system.

**Beliefs About Health and Wellness**

What you believe about health and wellness will affect how you engage with patients over healthcare and how you view them as compliant. It is important to first recognize your own beliefs and then learn to understand how others might choose options outside of your belief system. This may be on an individual basis or a global basis.

**Changing Role: Initial Concept Map**

Examine your beliefs regarding health and wellness considering the changes in health care delivery today and in the future,

Develop a concept map that identifies the factors that you believe will impact health and wellness considering globalization.

**Nursing Skills and Knowledge Needed to Practice in the Community Environment**

Complete the online tutorial "America's Health Care Safety Net" on the KaiserEDU site.

Identify the community factors that act as a safety net for healthcare families.

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 101 ("Nursing in the International Community: A Broader View of
Include your thoughts about nursing in the community, nation and the world.

- What trends have you identified that influenced your vision?

Readings and Message Board Discussion About Changing Emphasis From Process to Outcomes

The term outcome refers to the effects of final results obtained from utilizing the structure and processes of healthcare delivery. Outcomes are viewed by many as the bottom line measure of the effectiveness of the healthcare delivery system.

Complete the following:

- Conduct an Internet search and locate at least one article on pay for performance.
- Go to the message board and comment in the discussion thread.

Consider the following question:

- Why do you think healthcare is shifting from a process emphasis to an outcomes focus?

Changing Role: Final Concept Map

Revisit your concept map.

- How do you see your role in an evolving healthcare delivery system?

Healthcare Finance in the United States

Nurse leaders need to understand the concepts of healthcare finance and budgeting, including the role of insurance providers that affect the total healthcare budget. Comparison of reimbursement systems in other countries can also provide the nurse leader with new ideas for change and how these foreign reimbursement systems can possibly be implemented in the U.S. healthcare system.

Competencies covered by this subject
712.3.1 - Healthcare Financing

The graduate understands how healthcare is financed in the United States.

Healthcare Finance

The nurse leader often is involved in healthcare finance issues. This might be at the bedside of someone, involving resources and supplies, or at a facility level in making decisions about the direction an institution will take. The nurse can also become involved in major healthcare financing at a state or federal level.
Healthcare Finance: Initial Concept Map

Draw a concept map regarding your perceptions about studying healthcare finance.

Use as many concepts as you can to complete your self assessment.

Remember to review your previous concept maps.

Healthcare Cost Analysis

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

- chapter 16 ("A Primer on Health Economics")
- chapter 18 ("Children's Health Insurance Coverage: Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program")
- chapter 17 ("Reforming Medicare")
- chapter 19 ("The United States Military Health System: An Overview of Major Policy Issues")
- chapter 21 ("The Uninsured and Underinsured-On the Cusp of Health Reform")

Go to the KaiserEDU site.

Select Medicaid/SCHIP, then select and complete each of the following:

- Financing Long-Term Care
- Future Directions for Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Coverage

Identifying Types of Insurance

Make a list of the available public health insurances.

Consider the following questions:

- What are the differences between Medicare, Medicaid, Military Health Services, Veterans Association, and Children's Health Programs?
- In what ways are these programs funded?
- Who is eligible?
- What are their shortfalls?

The Uninsured

Go to the KaiserEDU site.

Select Uninsured and complete each of the following:

- Health Insurance and Access to Health Care
- Expanding Health Coverage to the Uninsured
Consider the following:

- How does the type of coverage, public, private or self pay influence health care delivery?
- What are the implications for nursing practice?

Go to the message board and initiate or contribute to an existing discussion thread concerning the role of healthcare insurers and the impact upon healthcare delivery.

**Discussion Concerning National Data Reports**

Go to the search engine of your choice and locate the most recent national healthcare expenditure report.

- How can you utilize these data in your practice setting?

**Final Concept Map and Reflection**

Review your concept map and modify as necessary.

- How have your initial impressions changed as a result of this competency?

**Impact of Nursing Decisions on Financing of Healthcare**

Nurse leaders need to understand economic theories that underlie budgeting and finance in order to apply prudent economic principles to budgeting in their own healthcare environments.

**Economic Theories**

An understanding of economic theories provides the nurse leader with the tools to engage in effective discussions and policy decisions regarding finances from a local and national level.

**Economic Theories: Initial Concept Map**

Complete the following:

Develop a concept map on what you know about theories on budgeting and finance in healthcare.

Based on your current understanding of economic theories and the budget process identify your current thoughts, beliefs, and feelings related to the budget process at your workplace.

In the development of your map, consider what type of budget process is used at your workplace.

Practice identifying at least
• three fixed expenses,
• three variable expense,
• three controllable expenses, and
• three unrecoverable expenses.

Make sure you are able to compare the costs (fixed, variable and controllable) through a cost-benefit analysis to prepare for your performance task.

**Comparison and Application of Economic Theories to Practice**

Read the following in the *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care* text:

• chapter 16 ("A Primer on Health Economics")

Consider the following:

• What are the economic theories which have an impact upon financing healthcare?
• From where did these theories get their roots?
• How have you applied these theories in your practice setting?
• Which theory or combination of theories is used at your facility?

**Budget Preparation and Application of Fiscal Management Principles to Healthcare**

Work through the budget tutorial on the Foundation Center site.

• What types of costs (fixed, variable, controlled) do you utilize in your practice setting?
• What role does nursing have in budget development at your facility?

Develop a mock budget for a project for your organization.

**Online Course and Readings on Cost-Effectiveness of Healthcare Systems and Monitoring Effectiveness**

Login to CE Direct and complete the following module:

• "Healthcare Fraud"

Be sure to download the CE certificate once you have completed the course.

Consider the following:

• What is health care fraud and what are the problems identified with fraud control?
• What are the key federal laws governing health care fraud?
• What is the nurse's role in recognizing, avoiding, and controlling health care fraud?
• How does it affect the cost effectiveness of healthcare system?

**Economic Theories: Final Concept Map and Reflection**

Review all of your concept maps.

Based on your readings and modifications of your initial concepts maps, how would you change your approaches to financial decision making?

**Final Steps**

Congratulations! You have completed the course of study on Healthcare Policy, Organization, and Finance.

This comprehensive course of study provided a foundation for your future career in nursing. It took a great deal of effort, so be proud of yourself! You are on your way to increasing your nursing competency and skills!

**Assessment Information**

Assessment information  Congratulations you have completed the course of study. You will now complete the following performance assessments HFT2 and HGC2.

**Accessing Performance Assessments**

You should have completed the following tasks as you worked through this course of study. If you have not completed the tasks in TaskStream, do so now.

- HFT2: Impact of Nursing Decisions on Financing of Healthcare
- HGC2: Organization of Healthcare Delivery Systems

For directions on how to receive access to performance assessments, see the “Accessing Performance Assessments” page.

**Feedback**

WGU values your input! As part of an opportunity to participate in student governance within the nursing program, we encourage students to provide feedback upon course completion. Please remember to utilize the Feedback form below to contribute your comments for the course. Thank you!

To provide feedback on this or any other course of study, please use the [Course of Study Feedback form](#).

**ADA Requirements**

Please review the [University ADA policy](#).