This course supports the assessment for HGC2. The course covers 7 competencies and represents 2 competency units.

Introduction

This course is aligned to the HGC2 performance assessment. The same study materials are utilized in the HFT2 performance assessment. If you have previously completed the HFT2 assessment, then you should have already completed the required study activities found in this course. You may wish to review the assignments here, but you are not required to repeat these activities. If you have not yet completed the HFT2 assessment, then please proceed through this course in full.

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.

Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 7 competencies:

- **Competency 712.1.1: Legislative and Regulatory Processes**
  The graduate understands legislative and regulatory processes.

- **Competency 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.

- **Competency 712.2.1: U.S. Healthcare Delivery System**
  The graduate understands how healthcare is delivered in the United States.

- **Competency 712.2.2: Influencing Factors**
  The graduate understands factors influencing healthcare delivery in the United States.

- **Competency 712.2.3: Changing Role of the Nurse**
  The graduate understands the changing role of the nurse in an evolving healthcare delivery system.

- **Competency 712.3.1: Healthcare Financing in the United States**
  The graduate understands how healthcare is financed in the United States.

- **Competency 712.3.2: Impact of Nursing Decisions on Financing of Healthcare**
  The graduate understands the impact that fiscal management and financial decisions have on nursing decisions.

Watch the following introduction video for this course:

Nursing Dispositions Statement

Please review the [Statement of Nursing Dispositions](#).
Course Mentor Assistance
As you prepare to successfully demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course mentors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, mentors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course mentors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.

Successful students report that working with a course mentor is the key to their success. Course mentors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you're studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don't work out on your first try, course mentors act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course mentors for the duration of your coursework, so you are welcome to contact them as soon as you begin. Course mentors are fully committed to your success!

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 Resources

You can access the learning resources listed in this section by clicking on the links provided throughout the course. You may be prompted to log in to the WGU student portal to access the resources.

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.


*Note: This e-text is available to you free of charge, but you may purchase a hard copy 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.*

CE Direct
You will be directly linked to specific CE Direct modules at the activity level within this course.

Other Learning Resources

You will use the following learning resources for this course.
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.

All tutorials are free and do not require further enrollment.

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:

- Nursing Standards 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.

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?

This topic addresses the following competency:

- Competency 712.1.1: Legislative and Regulatory Processes
  The graduate understands legislative and regulatory processes.

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 Healthcare 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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.

**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?

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 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.

**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 Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care:

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

Identify a healthcare 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 Healthcare 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 Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care:

- chapter 39 ("Science, Policy and Politics")
- chapter 40 ("Research as a Political and Policy Tool")
- chapter 41 ("Health Services Research: Translating Research into Policy")
- chapter 42 ("Politics and Evidence-based Practice and Policy")

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 Healthcare 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 Healthcare Professionals

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

- 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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 healthcare 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 healthcare policy problem you identified.

Identifying the Regulatory and Quality Controls in Healthcare

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

- 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 healthcare 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 U.S. Congressional members who are nurses.

- What are their positions on national healthcare issues?
- Are they different from your local legislator’s positions?

Go to the Healthcare 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 healthcare 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.

**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?

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 712.2.1: US Healthcare Delivery System**
  The graduate understands how healthcare is delivered in the United States.

**Healthcare Delivery System: Initial Concept Map**

Complete the following:

Draw a concept map regarding your perceptions of the U.S. healthcare delivery system.

Consider the following question:

- 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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. healthcare 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 improve 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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")

Consider the following:
• What does 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.

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.

This topic addresses the following competency:

• Competency 712.2.2: Influencing Factors
  The graduate understands factors influencing healthcare delivery in the United States.

Primary Factors Influencing Healthcare: Initial Concept Map

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

• 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- 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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

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

Access the *Tutorials and Presentations* section of the *KaiserEDU* site. Use the *All Tutorials* list to locate and complete the following tutorial in the "Minority Health" topic:

- Race and Ethnicity and Healthcare  
  *Cara James, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst, Kaiser Family Foundation, August 2007*

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.

**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.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 712.2.3: Changing Role of the Nurse**  
  The graduate understands the changing role of the nurse in an evolving healthcare delivery system.

**Changing Role: Initial Concept Map**

Examine your beliefs regarding health and wellness considering the changes in healthcare 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**

Access the *Tutorials and Presentations* section of the [KaiserEDU](https://www.kaiseredu.com) site. Use the *All Tutorials* list to locate and complete the following tutorial in the "Delivery Systems" topic:

- America's Healthcare Safety Net  
  *Andrew Bindman, M.D. University of California, San Francisco, December 2008*

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

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

- chapter 101 ("Nursing in the International Community: A Broader View of Nursing")
- chapter 103 ("Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Disease: A Global Challenge")
- chapter 104 ("Human Trafficking: The Need for Nursing Advocacy")

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.

**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.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 712.3.1: Healthcare Financing in the United States**
The graduate understands how healthcare is financed in the United States.

**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 *Policy & Politics in Nursing & Health Care*:

- chapter 16 (“A Primer on Health Economics”)
- chapter 17 (“Reforming Medicare”)
- chapter 18 (“Children’s Health Insurance Coverage: Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program”)
- 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”)

Access the *Tutorials and Presentations* section of the KaiserEDU site. Use the *All Tutorials* list to locate and complete the following tutorials in the "Medicaid/SCHIP" topic:

- Long-Term Care
  *Jhamirah Howard, Policy Analyst. Assistance Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, July 2012*

- Children’s Health Insurance Coverage
  *Robin Rudowitz, Principal Policy Analyst. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, May 2007*

On the KaiserEDU site, use the search tool to locate and complete the following tutorial:

- Future Directions for Medicaid: Implications of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and
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

Access the Tutorials and Presentations section of the KaiserEDU site. Use the All Tutorials list to locate and complete the following tutorials in the "Insurance" topic:

- Health Insurance and Access to Healthcare
  Catherine Hoffman, Sc.D., MN, Associate Director. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, February 2009

On the KaiserEDU site, use the search tool to locate and complete the following tutorial:

- Expanding Health Coverage
  Diane Rowland, Sc.D. Executive Director. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and 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.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 712.3.2: Impact of Nursing Decisions on Financing of Healthcare**
  The graduate understands the impact that fiscal management and financial decisions have on nursing decisions.

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

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

- 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**

Complete the following CE Direct module:

- "Healthcare Fraud"

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

Consider the following:

- What is healthcare fraud and what are the problems identified with fraud control?
- What are the key federal laws governing healthcare 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 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 assessment, schedule and complete your assessment now.

**The WGU Library**

The WGU Library is available online to WGU students 24 hours a day.

For more information about using the WGU Library, view the following videos on The WGU Channel:
Introducing the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...":* [download video](#).

Searching the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...":* [download video](#).

**Center for Writing Excellence: The WGU Writing Center**

If you need help with any part of the writing or revision process, contact the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Whatever your needs—writing anxiety, grammar, general college writing concerns, or even ESL language-related writing issues—the CWE is available to help you. The CWE offers personalized individual sessions and weekly group webinars. For an appointment, please e-mail writingcenter@wgu.edu.

**Feedback**

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:

- [Course Feedback](#)

**Accessibility Policy**

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at ADASupport@wgu.edu. Further information on WGU’s Accessibility Policy policy and process can be viewed in the student handbook at the following link:

- [Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities](#)