

Department of Economics, Carleton University
ECON 3460 A – Introduction to Health Economics
Fall 2023

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Course delivery: In person
Course meeting time: Wednesday, 14:35 to 17:25
Course location: Log into Carleton Central to view the location on your timetable.
Course Brightspace page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/208428>

ALGONQUIN TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

EMAIL POLICY

Students can expect a reply within two to three business days. To receive a timely reply, please use your Carleton email address and include ECON 3460 as the first part of the subject of all emails. For additional information on email etiquette, [click here](#).

COURSE COPYRIGHT

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copyright protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and

course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of the course is two-fold. First, it aims to give students an understanding of key topics in health economics; specifically, the demand and supply of health and health care, and the role that market and non-market institutions play in that respect. Second, it will provide students with the theoretical and empirical tools to critically examine key issues in health economics, including issues pertaining to health policy.

The course will be broadly divided in three parts. First, we will study individuals' decision to invest in their health in order to improve their well-being and their productivity. We will also investigate how this decision-making is influenced by people's characteristics (e.g., education, income) and by policy, and how it can lead to certain health behaviours, like smoking. Second, we will explore two defining aspects of health care systems everywhere: how health care is financed and how providers are paid. We will consider both public and private approaches to the financing and delivery of health care, and explore the important role that health insurance plays in that context. Finally, we will study specific actors involved in the supply of health care, including physicians, hospitals, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Throughout the semester, we will draw on economic principles to compare different health care systems, with a particular emphasis on the Canadian system and some of the challenges it faces.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Apply key economic concepts to the study of the demand for health and the demand for and provision of health care and health care insurance.
- Identify the elements that make up health care systems and describe how they affect the provision of health care and the health of individuals and populations.
- Use and extend economic models to analyze real-world issues pertaining to health and health care.
- Critically evaluate policy-relevant statements related to health and health care using economic principles.

PREREQUISITES AND PRECLUSIONS

Prerequisite(s): ECON 1001 or ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003. Students who believe they can be exempted from the listed prerequisites should contact the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Renée Lortie.

Preclusion(s): Credit will not be given if taken concurrently with or after ECON 4460.

TEXTBOOK

The main textbook for this course is:

Hurley, J. E. (2018). Health Economics (1st edition). ISBN: 9780070916487.

This textbook is strongly recommended but not required. Students can choose between ordering a hard copy of the book, which will be shipped to them, or an electronic version, which can be accessed immediately upon purchase. Both versions can be purchased by clicking [here](#). A team is available through chat (bottom right-hand corner of the website) during regular business hours, and can help students work through issues that may arise in purchasing the textbook or accessing the ebook.

A subset of lectures will also draw material from:

Sloan and Hsieh (2017). Health Economics (2nd edition). ISBN: 9780262035118.

Students do not need to purchase this textbook. Relevant chapters can be accessed through the course's Brightspace page, by clicking on the Tools drop-down menu and clicking on Ares Reserves.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course will be graded as follows:

Evaluation	Grade %	Date	Delivery
Participation	15	See description below	In-person
Learning Bundle reflection	5	Sep. 20	In-person
Problem sets (2)	20	Sep. 27 and Nov. 22	Take-home
Midterm exam	25	Oct. 18	In-person
Final exam	35	Dec. 10-22	In-person

Participation: Each class will incorporate Poll Everywhere questions and/or short exercises to be completed and handed in during class time, with the exception of the class when the midterm exam is scheduled. Students will be given 1.5 mark for every class where they attempt all Poll Everywhere questions and short exercises, for a maximum of 15 marks; i.e., two classes may be missed without explanation without affecting the participation mark. Wrong answers will not be penalized.

Learning Bundle reflection: The course will make use of one of Carleton University's Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundles, covering the determinants of health. Students can find more information about the Learning Bundles [here](#) and [here](#). The Bundle materials will be available to students through the course's Brightspace page. As part of their evaluation, students will write a short reflection about their learning based on the Bundle.

Problem sets: There will be two problem sets, to be completed alone or in teams of maximum two people. If completing the assignment as a team, students need only submit one problem set per team. However, the name and student ID of each team member should be clearly written on each assignment. The problem sets are designed to prepare students for the midterm and final exams. Students are therefore encouraged to work through all the problems and make sure they understand the solutions and associated work, even when working in teams.

Problem sets will be handed out approximately two weeks before they are due, and marked copies will be returned to students approximately one week after the due date.

Each problem set is due at the beginning of class on the due date (hard copy, in class). Electronic submissions will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will be held in class, based on material covered in classes 1 through 6 (see Tentative course calendar). The midterm exam will include a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Final exam: The final exam will be held in person during the university's final examination period, based on all the material covered during the semester (cumulative exam). The final exam will include a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Throughout the semester, we will discuss and analyze a small number of news articles and/or policy papers related to health economics, using the tools and concepts covered in class. The final exam will include one question where students will be asked to analyze a real-world situation, in a way similar to what we will have done together in class.

Missed exams and final grade: There will be no make-up midterm exam. Students who miss the midterm exam due to valid and documented circumstances (e.g., serious illness/emergency) will have the weight of the midterm placed on the final exam. The instructor reserves the right to request a Self-Declaration form or PMC letter of accommodation depending on the length of incapacitation. This information should be communicated ahead of the scheduled midterm exam if possible, or as soon as possible following the missed exam. Students who miss the midterm exam for invalid or undocumented reasons will receive a grade of zero.

In cases of serious illness/emergency or other circumstances that cause students to miss the final exam, students may petition the Registrar's Office to write a deferred exam. Students must make this petition no later than three working days after the original final examination. In the interim, they will receive a grade of zero for the final examination. If granted by the Registrar's Office, the deferred exam will take place during the time designated in Carleton University's calendar and carry the same weight as the final examination in determining the course grade.

Students are not to make travel plans during the exam period as this is not a valid reason for missing a final exam.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

RE-MARKING

Any request for re-marking of an exam must be submitted in writing within a two-week period of that exam being returned to the class. Students should include in that request a detailed explanation of why they feel they should receive a higher mark. Re-marking will apply to the entire exam, not just the contentious question(s). As a result, the revised mark may be higher than, lower than, or the same as the original mark.

SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Students must fulfill all of the course requirements, including the final exam, in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

Class	Date	Topic	Reading	Evaluation
1	Sep. 6	Introduction to the course		
		Health and health care systems	Hurley, Ch. 1	
2	Sep. 13	Demand for health, production of health, and health behaviours	Hurley, Ch. 5 Sloan and Hsieh, Ch. 2	
3	Sep. 20	Determinants of population health	Hurley, Ch. 6	Learning Bundle reflection
		Learning Bundle: Determinants of health	See Brightspace	
4	Sep. 27	Essential concepts for health economics	Hurley, Ch. 2-4	Problem set 1 due
5	Oct. 4	Essential concepts for health economics	Hurley, Ch. 2-4	
		Health care as an economic commodity	Hurley, Ch. 7	
6	Oct. 11	Demand for health care	Hurley, Ch. 8 Sloan and Hsieh, Ch. 3	
7	Oct. 18			Midterm exam
	Oct. 25	Fall break		
8	Nov. 1	Demand for health care insurance	Hurley, Ch. 9 Sloan and Hsieh, Ch. 4	
9	Nov. 8	Private insurance markets	Hurley, Ch. 10 Sloan and Hsieh, Ch. 4	
10	Nov. 15	Systems of health care finance	Hurley, Ch. 11	
		Health care funding	Hurley, Ch. 12	
11	Nov. 22	Physicians	Hurley, Ch. 13	Problem set 2 due
12	Nov. 29	Hospitals	Hurley, Ch. 14	
13	Dec. 6	Pharmaceuticals	Hurley, Ch. 15 Sloan and Hsieh, Ch. 9	
	Dec. 10-22	Final examination period		Final exam

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CISCE)

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement (CISCE), formerly known as the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives, supports First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit, and Métis students, staff, and faculty by providing culturally safe spaces for dialogue and learning. The Centre provides weekly, monthly and annual programming for students and also develops and delivers resources and training to educate the Carleton community about Indigenous histories, worldviews and perspectives. To learn more about the services offered, please visit <https://carleton.ca/indigenous/cisce/students/>. If you have any questions, you can email Indigenous@carleton.ca.

RESOURCES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Statement on Student Mental Health: As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is not permitted unless explicitly specified.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

For the full policy please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious obligation: Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more information, [click here](#).

STATEMENT ON PANDEMIC MEASURES

No Symptom Reporting: Stay Home if Unwell. You are no longer required to submit a Symptom Reporting Form through cuScreen when you are unwell, and previous guidance requiring individuals to self-isolate for five days after the onset of an illness are no longer necessary. Remaining vigilant and not coming to campus when sick is still important. If you are feeling unwell, protect your classmates, professors, colleagues, and the Carleton community by staying home until you are feeling better.

Vaccination: Although vaccinations are still recommended as a way to reduce your risks, reporting of proof of vaccination is not required and cuScreen will no longer be available to upload vaccination documentation.

Masks: Masks are not required on campus. However, in line with other health care facilities, Health Services and the Sports Medicine Clinic may continue to require masks. Personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary, and we ask that everyone show respect for the choices of others.