



Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:  
At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand health insurance in the US, including the differences between Medicare/Medicaid and private insurance from both a patient and physician perspective.
2. Learn ways physicians can assist patients in accomplishing their healthcare goals within the patient's budget.
3. Discuss how to improve healthcare cost disparities.
4. Educate future physicians on various diagnostic procedure costs and learn how to reduce total healthcare expenses.
5. Explore programs currently available that can assist patients with healthcare costs and access.
6. Discuss how income and healthcare disparities affect different patient populations.
7. Learn how medical costs can affect a patient's overall health.

Course Format:

This course will consist of in-person lectures with required pre- and post-surveys. If a guest speaker is unable to present in person, the lecture may be moved to Zoom. Students will also be required to write a short (half-paged) statement reflecting on their experience in the elective at the end of the course.

Course Material:

[The Price We Pay by Marty Makary](#) (optional)

Attendance:

Students will be expected to attend all lectures, but students may miss up to 2 elective meetings unexcused; however, if accommodations are made a minimum of one (1) week prior, students will be provided with an alternative writing assignment.

Grading: Pass/Fail; at least an 80% is required to receive credit.

Grading Component	Contribution to Final Grade
Attendance	80%
Pre- and Post-survey (required for course credit)	10%
Final Paper (required for course credit)	10%

Schedule:

Date	Time	Topic	Speaker	Location	Lunch?
August 28th, 2024	12-1 PM	Course Intro: Medicare, Medicaid, and Private Insurance Overview	Dr. Brent Magers	ACB 220	
September 25th, 2024	12-1 PM	Urban vs Rural Hospitals: Exploring financial differences and patient outcomes	Mr. Steve Beck	ACB 220	
October 2nd, 2024	12-1 PM	Diagnostics: Comparing the cost of diagnostic procedures in different healthcare settings (general practice, emergency department, single-standing practices) and evaluating	Dr. Schroeder	ACB 230	
November 6th, 2024	12-1 PM	Public Health: The influence of financial strain on public health decision-making and the long-health	Katherine Wells	ACB 220	
December 4th, 2024	12-1 PM	Pharmaceutical costs and how to most effectively provide affordable care	Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (PharmD)	ACB 240	
January 8th, 2025					

*student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services located in Lubbock - 2C412, by telephone at 806-743-1926, or by email [disabilityservices@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@ttuhsc.edu).*"