



Fiscal Management in Healthcare Services

HCA 430 [all sections]

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

Managing financial resources effectively in a complex and disruptive economic environment presents significant challenges for healthcare managers. Learners study the financial management of healthcare payer, network, and provider organizations in the U.S. Reimbursement mechanisms, funding indigent care, industry costs and competition, and other ethical, legal, regulatory, and financial management challenges are critically assessed. Learners engage in preparing and managing budgets, using financial tools, and applying financial management best practices. The collaborative role of fiscal management in the delivery of patient-centric care and services is also explored. *Prerequisites: HCA 306 - Accounting in Healthcare and HCA 315 - Economics of Healthcare. Prior study of professional communication recommended.*

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Gapenski, L. C., & Pink, G. H. (2015). *Understanding healthcare financial management* (7th edition). Chicago, IL: Health Administration Press.

Print ISBN: 9781567937060, 1567937063 eText ISBN: 9781567937077, 1567937071

Various professional and scholarly resources are provided on the course site.

III. Course Learning Outcomes

Course learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Explain the major healthcare financing methods used in the healthcare industry.
2. Contrast the public and private payer entities in the healthcare marketplace and their respective roles in financing health services.
3. Apply healthcare financial management and analytical methods with consideration for ethical best practices, including GAAP.
4. Evaluate the financial health of healthcare provider and payer organizations.
5. Recommend financial management strategies to improve upon the financial stability of select healthcare organizations.

Unit	Objectives	Topics Covered	Course Outcomes Supported
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Differentiate between healthcare accounting and financial management. 2. Explain the role of financial management in healthcare services. 3. Explain healthcare provider reimbursement and the reimbursement models and methods used by public and private third party payers. 4. Assess the implications of health reform for payments to providers of healthcare services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Healthcare Financial Management • Health Insurance • Payments to Providers 	1: 2,3,5 2: 3 3: 2,4 4: 3,4
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the time value of money. 2. Assess financial risk and return for healthcare organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Value Analysis • Financial Risk and Required Return 	1: 1,3,5 2: 1,3,5
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the different means for capital acquisition and financing for healthcare organizations. 2. Relate informed decisions regarding capital acquisition and financing for healthcare organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt Financing • Equity Financing • Lease Financing 	1: 1,2,3,5 2: 1,2,3,5
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the financial condition of a healthcare organization from its financial statement. 2. Create financial forecasts for a healthcare organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Condition Analysis • Financial Forecasting 	1: 2,3,4,5 2: 2,3,4,5
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the role of financial analysis in health services capital budgeting decisions. 2. Evaluate the key elements of cash flow estimation, breakeven analysis, and profitability analysis. 3. Explain how risk is incorporated into the capital budgeting process. 4. Analyze the techniques used in project risk assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budgeting • Project Risk Analysis 	1: 1,2,3,5 2: 1,2,3,5 3: 1,2,3,5 4: 1,2,3,5
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the revenue cycle and the key issues involved in its management. 2. Explain how businesses manage cash. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Cycle and Current Accounts Management 	1: 2,3,5 2: 2,3,5

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes and unit objectives. You are more likely to achieve these only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	300	30%
Concept Papers	4	400	40%
Final Research Project (Mastery Assignment)	1	300	30%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance

Unit	Graded Work Due	Relevant Reading/Viewing Prep	Unit Learning Objectives Supported
1	Unit 1 Discussion (see course site for all due dates) Unit 1 Concept Paper, due Sunday 11:59 pm CT	Chapters 1-3 Article by Barr	1,3,4 2,3,4
2	Unit 2 Discussion Unit 2 Concept Paper, due Sunday 11:59 pm CT	Chapters 4-5 Video, "Time Value of Money"	1,2 1,2
3	Unit 3 Discussion Unit 3 Concept Paper, due Sunday 11:59 pm CT	Chapters 6-8 Article by Rath	1,2 1,2
4	Unit 4 Discussion Unit 4 Concept Paper, due Sunday 11:59 pm CT	Chapters 13-14 Presentation, "The Financial Audit Report: Items Commonly Overlooked" Article, "Financial Ratios" Article by Whitehouse Article by Garcia	1,2 1,2
5	Unit 5 Discussion	Chapters 11-12 Article by Standen	1,2,3,4
6	Unit 6 Discussion Final Research Project (Mastery Assignment), due Sunday 11:59 pm CT	Chapter 15 Article by Murphy All course materials	1,2 1,2

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.