

Syllabus: Utilization of Health Service Research. Graduate course proposal for MSHA program.

Course Title/number	<b>HCA 622 Utilization of Health Services Research</b>
Semester/Year	Fall 2016
Instructor	<b>William "Kent" Willis</b>
Days/Time	
Room	
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Office hours	By appointment or before/after class
MU Policies	This course complies with all Marshall University Policies as stated by the Office of Academic Affairs. These policies are accessible via the website ( <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs">www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs</a> ) by clicking on the link to "Marshall University Policies" on the right side of the page. Policies at this link include Academic Dishonesty, Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates, University Computing Service Acceptable Use, Inclement Weather, Dead Week, Students with Disabilities, Academic Dismissal, Academic Forgiveness, Academic Probation and Suspension, Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students, Affirmative Action, and Sexual Harassment.
Disclaimer	This syllabus or any portion of this course is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

### **Course Description:**

Utilization of Health Services Research. 3 hrs.

Course provides an introduction to methods of undertaking research and program evaluation within health services organizations and delivery systems. Recommended for students who will be involved in policy research, social science research, or program impact evaluation within health delivery systems.

Pre-requisites: HCA 600, MKT 511

**Course information:**

Health Services Research (HSR) is a multidisciplinary scientific field that examines how people get access to health care practitioners and health care services, how much care costs, and what happens to patients as a result of this care (AcademyHealth 2000). Health services researchers attempt to evaluate the effects and outcomes of the health care system on people's health.

Health services research examines how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, medical technology, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and quantity and quality of life. HSR is a relatively young science that developed through the bringing together of social science perspectives with the contributions of individuals and institutions engaged in delivering health services (Sheikh 2011).

The primary goal of HSR is to utilize data in efforts to identify the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality care; reduce medical errors; and improve patient safety (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality 2002). HSR is concerned with delivery and access to care and seeks to perform research and utilize data that can be applied by physicians, nurses, health managers and administrators, and other people who make decisions or deliver care in the health care system.

The business structure of health care delivery becomes critically important as health care managers are becoming more accountable for the delivery of quality health care. The utilization of health services research data is a major component of how a health care manager makes business decisions, as the manager plans, monitors, and evaluates health delivery.

As a MSHA course, Utilization of Health Services Research will allow a student to examine a broad array of research topics such as: individuals cared for in a particular service area of a hospital or clinic, persons who are covered by a particular insurance provider, persons who receive Medicare or Medicaid supplement, outcomes of services provided by a health care facility, and global health care management and health care policy impact decision making.

**Course Text:**

Shi. L. Health Services Research Methods. (2008). Delmar Learning, Clifton Park, NY.

Additional course material can be posted on Blackboard for student access.



### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Obj. 1. Demonstrate proficiency in basic concepts, principles, and applications of data utilization for managerial purposes.
- Obj. 2. Analyze data from case studies to make managerial decisions using financial and business related methodologies
- Obj. 3. Apply collected data to the functions of management, finance, and human resources in a health care organization.
- Obj. 4. Learn of the various study designs for collecting and analyzing data used within the business of health care management.
- Obj. 5. Practice the use of common statistical measurement techniques used in health care decision making.
- Obj. 6 Develop written and oral communication skills.

### **Practiced and assessed learner outcomes**

	Objectives	Practiced	Assessed
<b>Students will:</b>	1, 4, 5	Exercises, assignments	Exams, project assignments
<b>Students will:</b>	2, 3, 4, 6	Case studies, exercises, assignments	Exams/essay, project assignments
<b>Students will:</b>	1, 2, 3, 6	Case studies, exercises, assignments	Exams/essay, project assignments
<b>Students will:</b>	1, 2, 3, 6	Case studies, exercises, assignments	Exams/essay, project assignments, presentation
<b>Students will:</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Case studies, exercises, assignments	Exams/essay, project assignments

### **Course work:**

Course work will focus on both the individual and small student group component. As the course utilizes some case studies and the application of results stemming from the case studies to the health management functions, the group and individual approach will allow the student to interact with fellow students on assignments, in addition to individual work, thus allowing the instructor to evaluate the students from both perspectives. The course work will be structured allowing the student to build a working knowledge of the application of collected data to health care management.

Outside exercises and assignments will allow the student research opportunities and develop application skills.

**Grade scale:**

Standard 90, 80, 70, 60% scale

**Supporting materials:**

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (AHRQ) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). HCUP is the Nation's most comprehensive source of hospital data, including information on in-patient care, ambulatory care, and emergency department visits. HCUP enables researchers, insurers, policymakers and others to study health care delivery and patient outcomes over time, and at the national, regional, State, and community levels.
2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Data Sources Available from AHRQ. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) provides a range of data resources in the form of online, searchable databases. Data are provided on topics such as the use of health care, the costs of care, trends in hospital care, health insurance coverage, out-of-pocket spending, and patient satisfaction.
3. Journal of Health Services Research. AcademyHealth. Rated as one of the top journals in the field, *HSR* publishes outstanding articles reporting the findings of original investigations that expand understanding of the wide-ranging field of health care and help improve the health of individuals and communities.
4. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Research Data Center.
5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Research and Statistics.
6. National Institute of Health. National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR)

Additional current articles and readings will be utilized as they become available.

**References:**

1. AcademyHealth. What is HSR?, June 2000
2. Sheikh K, et al. (2011) Building the Field of Health Policy and Systems Research: Framing the Questions. *PLoS Med*, 8(8): e1001073.
3. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, February 2002