Health Policy & Advocacy for DNP Leaders
NURS 7331
Fall 2025

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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Virtual Office Hours: Weekly virtual office hours are available, with opportunities for one-on-one appointments upon request. Additional days and times can be arranged to accommodate your schedule. To schedule a one-on-one appointment, please email the faculty. The Microsoft Teams link and schedule for weekly office hours will be provided in Canvas.

Course Description: This course equips DNP students with the knowledge and skills to engage in health policy analysis, advocacy, and research. Students will examine the policymaking process, from problem identification and policy design to enactment, implementation, and evaluation. Emphasis is placed on assessing the impact of public policy on healthcare systems, quality, access, and health outcomes. Through evidence-based strategies, students will develop policy initiatives, utilize data analytics to inform recommendations, and explore advocacy approaches to influence healthcare reform. Interprofessional collaboration and ethical considerations in policy development are integrated to prepare students for leadership in health policy.

Prerequisites: NURS 7303, NURS 7373

Corequisites: NURS 7375

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the impact of public policy on healthcare systems, access, quality, and health equity. (AACN 3.4, 7.2, 7.3, 9.4)
2. Develop evidence-based policy initiatives that address social determinants of health and advance population health outcomes. (AACN 3.4, 7.1, 7.2, 9.2, 10.3)
3. Demonstrate advocacy strategies to influence healthcare policy, advance ethical practice, and enhance access to quality care. (AACN 3.5, 7.2, 7.3, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6)
4. Utilize data analytics and health metrics to inform policy recommendations, drive change, and evaluate the effectiveness of advocacy efforts. (AACN 3.1, 3.4, 5.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8.2)
5. Appraise strategic policy proposals that align with interprofessional, legislative, and organizational priorities to influence healthcare reform. (AACN 2.9, 3.4, 7.1, 7.2, 9.4)

Required Textbooks:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN-13: 978-1433832161, ISBN-10: 143383216X

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; National Academy of Medicine; Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020–2030. (2021). *The Future of Nursing 20202030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity* (J. L. Flaubert, S. Le Menestrel, D. R. Williams, & M. K. Wakefield, Eds.). National Academies Press (US). https://doi.org/10.17226/25982

　　　　Available for download in the course and at https://www.nap.edu/download/25982

Short, N. M. (2022). *Milstead's health policy and politics: A nurse's guide* (7th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade
Participation	5%
Learning Assessments – Check Your Understanding	10%
Professionalism	3%
Case Studies	20%
Assignments	40%
Discussions	12%
Reflections	10%
Total	100**%**

DNP Project Hours Requirement:
To successfully pass this course, students must complete and document a **minimum of 100 DNP Practice Hours** in Exxat. Proper and timely documentation in Exxat is mandatory and will be monitored for compliance.

Students who are applying approved post-baccalaureate clinical/practice hours to the DNP program are permitted to apply a portion of those hours to satisfy **up to 50%** of the required hours for this course, provided that these hours meet the program's criteria and are properly verified.

Within the first two weeks of the course, students must complete the *DNP Practice Hours Plan Attestation form,* specifying the number of hours they plan to apply to this course. The attestation form must also include a statement of the total number of post-baccalaureate clinical/practice hours approved through the *Clinical Hour Verification Request* process, the number of hours applied to previous courses, and the remaining balance of hours available to be applied toward future courses. Failure to complete and submit the attestation form within the required timeframe may result in ineligibility to apply post-baccalaureate hours to the course.

Practice hours must be logged in Exxat within 7 days of completing the activity. Failure to log hours within this timeframe will result in the hours being disqualified for credit, and the activity will need to be repeated to count toward the required hours.

Failure to complete the required hours for the course or to accurately document them in Exxat will result in an **incomplete or course failure**, as meeting the hour requirement is essential for progression in the program. Students are responsible for ensuring that all hours are properly logged and verified within the designated timeframe.
Grading Scale:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

A - 90-100
B - 80-89
C - 70-79
D - 60-69
F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.

Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this course:
UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy

For this course, **AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required.**

During some class assignments, we may leverage AI tools to support your learning, allow you to explore how AI tools can be used, and/or better understand their benefits and limitations. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. However, AI will be limited to assignments where AI is a critical component of the learning activity. I will always indicate when and where the use of AI tools for this course is appropriate.

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.
- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.

- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
  - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
  - a reduced or failing grade for the course
  - removal from the Nursing program
  - removal from UT Tyler

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply.

Missed Assignments Policy: All course assignments are required components of this course and must be completed to receive a passing grade. If an assignment is missed, a grade of zero will be recorded and will remain as the final grade for that assignment. However, the assignment must still be completed and submitted, regardless of the grade penalty, to satisfy course completion requirements. Failure to submit all required coursework may result in a course failure, regardless of the final grade average.

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Grading Criteria and Assignment Details: Detailed information, including grading rubrics, will be provided in Canvas.

Important Course Dates:

- Classes begin for 7-week session: 8/28/25
- Orientation: Wednesday, 9/10/25 at 1pm CST. Teams link will be provided in the course Modules section
- Census Date: 9/4/25
- Holidays: Labor Day (9/1/25)
- Last Date to Withdraw: 10/1/25

Last Day of Course: 10/17/25; please refer to the course schedule and Canvas for specific due dates.

Please note that all assignments must be submitted by 11:59 PM Central Time on the due date listed.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates: Details about readings and assignments will be provided in Canvas.

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas (in the Syllabus Module).

Course Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates /Times: Subject to change based on the needs of the course (Calendar incomplete pending confirmation of dates and assignments)

Week/Module	Assignment	Due Date/Time (CT)
Module 1 Introduction, Objectives and Course Overview (Week 1)	Webinar & Quiz: Course Orientation RT: Experience in public policymaking Student Information Graduate Affirmation Forms	TBD
Module 2 Nurses' Role in Informing Public Policy (Weeks 2 & 3)	Chapters 1 &11 Learning Assessment	TBD
Module 3 – Policy Identification, Analysis, and Design (Weeks 4 & 5)	Chapters 3 & 4 DB – Public opinion and public policy Learning Assessment	TBD
Module 4 - Policy Enactment, Implementation & Evaluation (Weeks 6 -8)	Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8 Assignment – Case Study Learning Assessment DB: Professional nursing organizations and policy Learning Assessment Policy Brief Assignment	TBD
Module 5 - News and Social Media Literacy (Weeks 9 & 10)	Chapter 2 DB: Bias, Bias, Everywhere Learning Assessment	TBD
Module 6 - Data and Finance in a Political World (Week 11 & 12)	Chapters 9 & 10 CS: Research Evidence Versus Big Data Case Study Learning Assessment Data Analysis Assignment	TBD
Module 7 - Engaging in Policy Activities (Week 14)	Chapter 12 RT Assignment – Writing your Congressperson Learning Assessment	TBD
Week 13		TBD
Module 8 - Final Week Wrap Up (Week 15)	Reflection on Learning	TBD