



Health Policy for Population Health
NURS 5321, Flex 1, Section P061

Spring 2026
Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: Mondays, 9:00am-12:00pm and by appointment or phone call or video conference. Additional days and times may be arranged upon request. Please email faculty to make arrangements/obtain Zoom link.

*Best way to contact me.

Course Description: This course explores the reciprocity between health care policies and population health.

Prerequisites: Admission to any MSN program or enrolled in the PhD in Nursing program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Examine causes of social, economical, political, and behavioral factors that affect health of populations.
2. Assess individual, organizational and community concerns, assets, resources and deficits utilizing a systems-thinking approach for population health.
3. Analyze policy issues that impact health care to support advocacy in the policy process at the system, local, regional, or national levels.
4. Identify critical stakeholders and key collaborative partnerships that influence the health care system to improve population health.
5. Evaluate health policies based on an ethical framework to advance population health.
6. Explain the planning, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based population health initiatives.
7. Recommend strategies to safeguard population health during disasters and public health emergencies.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (7th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author. ISBN 978-1-4338-3216-1

Knickman, J. R., & Elbel B. (Eds.). (2024). *Jonas & Kovner's health care delivery in the United States* (13th ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC. ISBN: 978-0-8261-7303-4.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values:

1. Participation	5%
2. Discussions (2)	15%
3. Quizzes (2)	20%
4. Policy Brief Planning	5%
5. Policy Brief	20%
6. Health Promotion Project (2 parts)	35% (17.5% each)

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

Artificial Intelligence: 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. This course has specific assignments where artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or Copilot) are permitted and encouraged. When AI use is permissible, it will be clearly stated in the assignment directions, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. Otherwise, the default is that AI is not allowed during any stage of an assignment.

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.

* This course has a Late Policy that applies to most assignments, but there are exceptions. Discussion Boards have their own rubrics with point deductions that take precedence over the Late Policy. Therefore, the Late Policy does not apply to Discussion Board assignments. Additionally, the Late Policy does not apply to the Peer Evaluation component of the rubric for the Health Promotion Project.

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.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

- **Participation:** The participation grade will include course orientation Zoom recording attestation, student information, and graduate affirmation forms.
- **Discussion Boards:** Throughout the semester you will participate in group discussions to help you become familiar with concepts related to health policy and population health. Topics vary and are introduced within corresponding modules. Discussion board guidelines can be found in the start here module on Canvas. Grading criteria for assigned discussion board postings can be found within the modules for which they are assigned.
- **Population Health Quiz:** You will take 2 quizzes over population health content covered in the corresponding readings. The quizzes will be open book, but students are encouraged to read the assigned chapters before beginning the quiz.
- **Policy Brief Planning:** The Policy Brief Topic and an existing health policy (local, state, or federal law/hospital policy) related to the chosen topic will be submitted for approval prior to submission of the Policy Brief.
- **Policy Brief:** The purpose of the Policy Brief is to succinctly evaluate policy options regarding a specific health care delivery issue to advocate for intervention(s) at the systems level. This Policy Brief will include actionable recommendations to an existing health policy to positively impact healthcare. Recommendations will be informed by a literature review of the recently published (within the last 5 years) scholarly evidence available on the subject.
- **Health Promotion Project:** The Health Promotion for Populations Project has 2 parts. You will be divided into teams for this assignment. Teams will be determined in the first week of the course. Collaboration and participation of all team members will be key to successful completion. Our expectation is that this will be a great experience for all of you as you collaborate with your peers to learn more about population health.
 - **Part 1:** The first part of the assignment will help prepare you for the remaining parts of the team project as you establish team norms and expectations. After establishing group norms, you will begin to create a Power Point presentation based on an actual county that demonstrates the synergistic nature of health promotion in populations. In Part 1, you will assess the health of the county and population and

select leading health indicators (LHI)s affecting your county that align with leading health disparities in Healthy People 2030.

- **Part 2:** The second part of the assignment is based on the application of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Reform Act, linking the Act to the selected population. Additionally, you will provide solutions and a key intervention targeted at impacting the priority health disparity that was identified in Part One.

Non-graded Practice Hours:

- **Practice Hours (if applicable):** If Fall 2025 marks your first enrollment in the UT Tyler SON master's program, to graduate you are required to complete a total of 750 practice hours if you are enrolled in an APRN program or 500 hours if enrolled in a non-APRN program. Here is the good news: we have a plan to help you accumulate these hours as you progress through the program. In this course, you will complete 10 practice hours, which will contribute towards the total requirement. You may not resubmit hours approved for this course in another course. We have created a list of ideas for you to choose from that will enhance your skills and competencies as a master's-prepared nurse! These practice hours are mandated by our accreditation agency, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Please Note: Detailed information and instructions along with grading rubrics for all assignments will be provided in the Canvas course.

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.

Important Course Dates for Spring Flex 1:

Classes Begin: January 8, 2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): January 14, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: February 11, 2026 Students, please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

Spring 2026 Flex 1			
Module	Week of:	Class Topic/Readings	Due this Week
1	1/12	Population Health and Public Health Systems and Their Role in Society Readings: Review Syllabus and Course Calendar; Ch. 4, 5, Future of Nursing, Measuring Functional Health Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Information • due Tuesday 1/13 • DB 1 Initial Post due 1/18 • Graduate Affirmation Forms due 1/18 • Attestation of Course Orientation Zoom due 1/18 • Attestation of Practice Hours (if applicable) due 1/18
2	1/19 <i>(closed 1/19 for MLK Jr. Holiday)</i>	Health and Behavior and Vulnerable Populations Readings: Ch. 6, 8, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB 1 Peer Response due Tuesday 1/20 • Quiz 1 <i>Opens</i> 1/19 • Part 1 Health Promotion Project and Peer Evaluation due 1/25
3	1/26	Health Care Delivery and Health Policy, Organization of Care, Readings: Ch. 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 due 2/1 • Policy Brief Planning due 2/1
4	2/2	Policy and the Politics of Health Care Comparative Health Systems and Health Care Delivery in the United States Readings: Ch. 3 and eChapter: A Visual Overview of Health Care Delivery in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2 Health Promotion Project and Peer Evaluation due 2/8 • Posting of Group Presentations due 2/8
5	2/9	The Future of Health Care Delivery and Health Policy Readings: Ch. 14, ethical principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2 <i>Opens</i> 2/9 • Policy Brief due 2/15
6	2/16	The Future of Health Care Delivery and Health Policy and Public Health Preparedness Readings: Ch. 7, 14, Articles, ethical principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB 2 Initial Post due 2/22 • Quiz 2 due 2/22 • 10 Practice Hours (if applicable)
7	2/23	Synthesis Readings: Major Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB 2 Peer Response due Tuesday 2/24

***Please note that all assignments must be submitted by 11:59 PM Central Time on the due date listed.
Important Course Dates for Spring Flex 2:**