



College of Nursing and Health Professions
Department of Public Health

HC 305 - Public Health Policy

Location meeting and Class meeting schedule: Online Asynchronous with in-person learning experience

Credits: 3 Section: #01 Term: Fall 2026

Instructor Information



Instructor: Christopher Alvarado, MPH, CEP, CCRP

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Phone: N/A

Office Location: Henry Hall 117

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-4:30 PM HST or online by appointment

Communication

The primary form of communication will be via email, and I will respond within 48 business hours.

College & Department Information

Public Health Program at the College of Nursing and Health Professions

Office Location:

3140 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
<https://chaminade.edu/nursing-health-professions/>
Phone: 808-739-8572

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Course Description

HC 305 Public Health Policy: This course evaluates current topics related to health policy and explores strategies for advocacy in community and public health. An examination of health policies in Hawai'i, nationally, and globally will include aspects of emerging health challenges, emergency response plans, and public health funding.

Pre-Requisites: ENG 102 and COM 101 are prerequisites for all upper division courses.

Time Allocation

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10-week term, or equivalent

amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement of 45 hours for one credit.

HC 305 is a three-credit hour course requiring 135 clock hours of student engagement, in accordance with the Chaminade University of Honolulu Credit Hour Policy. Over the 16 weeks of this course, the minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour is satisfied through regular online instruction and interaction with the faculty member and fellow students, extensive reading and research, seven Policy Assignment Activities, an experiential learning component consisting of four visits to the Hawai'i Public Access Room at the State Capitol, and the preparation of a written policy brief.

Suggested Materials

Henderson, J. W. (2023). Health Economics and Policy (8th ed.). Cengage. ISBN: 978-0-357-13286-9. This textbook is not required; it is offered as a suggested resource for students who would like additional reading to support their learning throughout the course.

Recommended Items

Course Website: <https://chaminade.instructure.com/>

Hardware Requirements:

Canvas is accessible from both PC and Mac computers with a reliable internet connection. You will also need to be able to access audio and video files. Subsequently, you should have access to speakers or headphones that allow you to hear the audio.

Software Requirements:

You will need to have some ability to listen to audio in an mp3 format, watch videos in mp4 format, stream online videos, and read .pdf files. There are a number of free software online that can be downloaded for free. If you need assistance with locating software please feel free to contact the Chaminade Help Desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu or (808) 735-4855.

Technical Assistance for Canvas Users:

- Search for help on specific topics or get tips in Canvas Student Guides
- Live chat with Canvas Support for students
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Online tutorials: select the "Students" role to access tutorials
- Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk@chaminade.edu or (808) 735-4855

Canvas (<https://chaminade.instructure.com>)

Canvas is a web-based learning management system, or LMS. It is used by learning institutions, educators, and students to access and manage online course learning materials and communicate about skill development and learning achievement. You will use canvas to get your weekly assignment, keep track of your grades, and turn in your work.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon completion of [degree program name], the student will be able to:

1. Utilize public health concepts to assess major health-related needs of diverse populations, addressing social determinants of health, and factors that contribute to morbidity and mortality

through the design and development of interventions that promote health equity and reduce disparities.

2. Utilize evidence-based approaches to evaluate program outcomes and inform decision-making processes that prioritize service, justice, and peace in public health practice, while emphasizing the importance of using data and research to drive impactful, equitable, and sustainable public health interventions.

3. Analyze public health data using statistical, epidemiological and data visualization techniques, to generate products that support communication and decision-making related to public health interventions.

4. Investigate basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy, and the roles, influences, and responsibilities of the different agencies and branches of government.

5. Develop innovative sustainable public health strategies that address complex challenges, promote equity, and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while fostering sustainable development practices locally and globally.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon completion of HC 305 Public Health Policy, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of healthcare economics and health policy to design and implement health education programs or evaluate and improve existing programs within a priority population(s).

2. Examine evidence-based approaches in creating health economic policies and develop a group project that demonstrates how such policies help to successfully implement public health activities in a priority population(s).

3. Demonstrate knowledge of health care economics and health policy development.

4. Plan, implement, and assess existing strategies that address health inequity and health disparity in priority populations.

5. Apply and demonstrate mastery of integrating appropriate evidence-based health policies within health education programs, disease interventions, and advocacy efforts, and utilize working knowledge of health economic policy in addressing emerging health challenges.

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.

2. Provide an integral, quality education.

3. Educate in family spirit.

4. Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation.

5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Marianist Values Integration

HC 305 reflects the Marianist tradition by promoting critical thinking about health policy through the lens of justice, equity, and advocacy for vulnerable and underserved populations. Students examine

how economic and policy decisions affect access to care, aligning with the values of service, justice, and peace. The experiential learning component, which brings students into direct contact with the policy development process at the Hawai'i State Capitol, fosters family spirit and civic engagement, while the study of emerging health challenges and evolving policy landscapes encourages adaptation and change. Through these learning experiences, students receive an integral, values-centered education that prepares them to contribute meaningfully to public health policy and advocacy.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Ōlelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) — E ola au i ke akua ('Ōlelo No'eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) — Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Ōlelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) — 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Ōlelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) — Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Ōlelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) — 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Ōlelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4	CLO 5
Marianist Values	x	x	x		
PLOs	x	x	x	x	x
Native Hawaiian Values	x	x	x		
Gen Ed Learning Outcomes (if applicable)					

Course Activities

Policy Assignment Activities - 55%

Eight Policy Assignment Activities are assigned throughout the semester, tied to weekly chapter readings and worth 5-10 points each. Activities are designed to reflect the insight of weekly learning and to demonstrate knowledge of healthcare economics and health policy concepts. In Week 5, this includes a Mock Legislation Assignment, in which students draft and workshop a piece of mock legislation. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due before the start of the next week of instruction, by 11:59 PM (HST).

PAR Visits - 15%

Students will engage in a hands-on experiential learning activity throughout the semester by visiting the Hawai'i Public Access Room (PAR) at the State Capitol to learn about the policy development process. Four visits are scheduled across the semester, culminating in a final reflection paper in Week 15.

Health Policy Project: Policy Brief - 30%

Students will design a 6-page policy brief that meets the Course Learning Outcomes, focused on a current health policy issue here in Hawai'i, applying course concepts to a real-world, locally relevant problem and proposing an evidence-based policy recommendation.

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to regularly attend all courses for which they are registered. Students should notify their instructor when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevent them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address or by leaving a message with the instructor's division office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly.

Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade. Unexcused absences equivalent to more than a week of classes may lead to a grade reduction for the course. Any unexcused absence of two consecutive weeks or more may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor, although the instructor is not required to withdraw students in that scenario. Repeated absences put students at risk of failing grades.

Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options.

Late Work

All assignments are due before the start of the next week of instruction and must be submitted by 11:59 PM (HST). Students must inform the instructor via Canvas email of any late assignments. Late written assignments will receive an automatic 10% deduction per day past the due date and time. No late assignments will be accepted after the 5th calendar day. ALL assignments, regardless of grade, must be completed and submitted in order to receive a passing grade in this class.

In the rare occurrence that submission in Canvas is not accessible, please contact Help Desk Support and report any technical issues. The student is responsible for getting a reference number from Help Desk Support as evidence of any technical issues as requested by the faculty. If Canvas cannot be accessed to submit an assignment on time, the student can email the course coordinator prior to the assignment deadline and attach the assignment. This procedure must only be used if Help Desk informs the student that Canvas is not accessible. The student is also responsible for posting the completed assignment in Canvas once the site is accessible, for grading purposes.

If requesting an extension on an assignment, the request must be formally submitted to the instructor prior to the due date unless there are extenuating circumstances. Extensions may be subject to the deduction of points as stipulated above. The student is responsible for making sure that the submitted document is the final version of the assignment; any resubmissions may be subject to late penalty. Individual assignments must be completed on an individual basis.

Make-Up Work

Make-up arrangements for a missed Hawai'i Public Access Room (PAR) visit or other experiential learning component must be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible. Alternative dates or an alternative assessment may be arranged at the instructor's discretion, depending on availability and the circumstances of the absence.

Extra Credit

This course does not offer extra credit.

Incomplete Grade

A grade of Incomplete (I) may be requested only in cases of documented emergencies or other extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the semester, and only when the majority of coursework has already been completed satisfactorily. Students must contact the instructor before the end of the semester to discuss eligibility and to complete any required University paperwork. Approval is at the instructor's discretion and follows the College of Nursing and Health Professions handbook and Chaminade University's Incomplete Grade Policy.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Grading Scale

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. Grades are calculated from the student's daily work, class participation, quizzes, tests, term papers, reports, and the final examination. They are interpreted as follows:

- A** — Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
- B** — Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
- C** — Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter
- D** — Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work
- F** — Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

Final Grades

Final grades are submitted to Self-Service:

- A = 90% and above
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 59% and below

Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, plagiarism, and unauthorized and/or undisclosed AI usage, in addition to more obvious dishonesty. See catalog section Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work for further information.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the Academic Honesty Policy on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Statement

Chaminade University recognizes the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in academic and professional environments. AI encompasses, but is not limited to, generative AI platforms, automated writing or content generation software, coding assistants, and similar tools. Students must ensure all submitted work genuinely reflects their knowledge and effort. Using AI to produce or significantly complete graded assignments, exams or other academic tasks — defined as use that substitutes for or substantially replaces a student's own analysis, reasoning or written expression — without explicit instructor approval is considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with according to the University's Academic Honesty Policy.

If an instructor has reasonable grounds to question whether submitted work genuinely reflects a student's own knowledge, authorship, or mastery of course material — or whether it meets the course's expectations for AI use — the instructor may require the student to provide additional or alternative evidence of authorship and content mastery. Such evidence may include drafts, notes, revision history, source materials, process explanations, oral discussion, in class work, or completion of an alternative assessment. A student's refusal or inability to provide such evidence may be considered, along with other available information, in evaluating whether the work meets course requirements and stated learning outcomes. Instructors will not rely solely on AI detection software or other automated tools in making grading or academic integrity determinations. Such determinations will be based on the totality of the available information and handled in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures. See the catalog section Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work for further information.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Contact information and reporting options: chaminade.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination/. File a report via the Campus Incident Report Form.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

The university is committed to comply with all State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Inquiries about Title IX or general Civil Rights concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at chaminade.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination/. On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found at chaminade.edu/titleix/resources-and-support/.

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the Campus Incident Report form. Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement - Kōkua 'Ike

Accessibility Services recognizes disability as a valued aspect of diversity and ensures equal access to the educational environment in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; and the principles and professional standards of the Association on Higher Education and Disability. Access is supported through reasonable accommodations and referrals to campus and community resources.

Appointments with the Accessibility Services Coordinator are available through Stellic at chaminade.stellic.com and may be held virtually or in person. Drop-in appointments are also welcome.

Students seeking support must meet with the Accessibility Services Coordinator as early as possible, even if they are unsure whether they have appropriate documentation of their disability or its impacts. The Accessibility Services Coordinator prioritizes listening to students' experiences and will discuss any documentation needs during the initial intake meeting. Students may seek support at any time. Learn more at chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua 'Ike's website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Campus Resources & Support Services

The following resources are available to all Chaminade students. Reach out early — these services exist to support your success.

Resource	Description	Contact / Website
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Accessibility Services (Kōkua 'Ike)	Accommodations under Section 504 and ADA. Contact early — appointments via Stellic, virtual or in person.	chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations
Tutoring & Academic Coaching (Kōkua 'Ike)	Individualized support in English, math, nursing, sciences, and social sciences, plus guidance developing goals and study strategies.	tutoring@chaminade.edu · 808-739-8305
Career Services	Individualized job search strategy coaching, resume reviews, job interview coaching, and access to career-related resources and opportunities.	chaminade.edu/career-services
Basic Needs Resources	Support for food insecurity, housing instability, and other basic needs.	chaminade.edu/basic-needs/
Title IX / Nondiscrimination	Reporting and support for sex discrimination and gender-based violence. Campus Incident Report Form available online.	chaminade.edu/titleix/resources-and-support/
Hazing Prevention	Confidential support, crisis intervention, and reporting for any type of abuse including hazing.	hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/
Campus Safety / SafeSwords	Security escort service for anyone who feels unsafe walking alone on campus at any time of day. Call security and a professional will escort you to your destination.	chaminade.edu/student-life/security/campus-safeswords-program/
CUH Alert Emergency Notification	Emergency text system. Register your cell number via the Chaminade portal and confirm the text to complete enrollment.	chaminade.edu

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments / Assessments (Due 11:59 PM HST)
1	Aug 17-23	Module 1: Healthcare Economics, Health Policy, the ACA, and the U.S. Medical System	Policy Assignment Activity #1 (Ch. 1) - Due Aug 23
2	Aug 24-30	Module 2: Health Care Spending Issues	Policy Assignment Activity #2 (Ch. 2) - Due Aug 30
3	Aug 31-Sep 6	Module 3: Competition & Equity in Health Care Markets	Health Policy Project: PAR Visit #1 - Due Sep 6
4	Sep 7-13	Module 4: Health Care Markets - Can They Work?	Policy Assignment Activity #3 (Ch. 3-5) - Due Sep 13
5	Sep 14-20	Module 5: Mock Legislation Workshop	Mock Legislation Assignment (Policy Assignment Activity #4) - Due Sep 20
6	Sep 21-27	Module 6: Healthcare Disparities	Health Policy Project: PAR Visit #2 - Due Sep 27
7	Sep 28-Oct 4	Module 7: Health Policy Brief Development	Policy Assignment Activity #5 (Ch. 6-7) - Due Oct 4
8	Oct 5-11	Module 8: Public Health Funding & Programs	Policy Assignment Activity #6 (Ch. 8-9) - Due Oct 11
9	Oct 12-18	Fall Wellness Week	No assignments due
10	Oct 19-25	Module 9: State & Federal Policy Frameworks	Health Policy Project: PAR Visit #3 - Due Oct 25

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments / Assessments (Due 11:59 PM HST)
11	Oct 26–Nov 1	Module 10: Emerging Health Challenges	Policy Assignment Activity #7 (Ch. 10–12) – Due Nov 1
12	Nov 2–8	Module 11: Continue Work on Health Policy Brief	Health Policy Project: PAR Visit #4 – Due Nov 8
13	Nov 9–15	Module 12: Advocacy Strategies in Public Health	Policy Assignment Activity #8 (Ch. 13–17) – Due Nov 15
14	Nov 16–22	Module 13: Policy Brief Finalization	Health Policy Project: Policy Brief – Due Nov 22
15	Nov 23–29	Module 14: Course Wrap-Up	Health Policy Project: Experiential Learning Activity & Reflection – Due Nov 29
16	Nov 30–Dec 4*	Module 15: Hawai'i's Policy Future Overview	Complete Course Evaluation Survey – Due Fri, Dec 4*

*Fall Semester last day of instruction is Fri, Dec 4; Finals Week runs Dec 7–10.

Fall Wellness Week runs Mon, Oct 12 – Fri, Oct 16 (Week 9). No assignments are due that week.

Week 16 covers Hawai'i's Policy Future Overview through recommended reading; the Course Evaluation Survey is the only submission due that week.