

## RATIONALE/NEED

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) introduced significant changes in the health system. Health professions have new incentives, opportunities and challenges. In order to address them effectively, health professionals need to understand the ACA and the opportunities and challenges it provides. The goal of the course is to facilitate such an understanding. The course will also examine the role of health professions in policy formation and implementation.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The ACA is controversial with conflicting interpretations and predictions about its impact. The course will facilitate learners' review and critical examination of:

- a) the cyclical nature of policy formation and the role of health professionals in that process,
- b) ACA provisions and initiatives and how they were formed;
- c) ACA quality improvement initiatives, incentives, and challenges; and
- d) ACA initiatives, opportunities, incentives, business models and challenges for healthcare provision.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## CLASS DESCRIPTION

### THEORY PHASE

Lectures, team assignments and in-class discussions about the ACA, and the new challenges, incentives and opportunities for the health professions.

### EXPERIENTIAL PHASE

1. Inter-professional teams will research and analyze a specific provisions of the law
2. In-class presentations of findings
3. Other activities based on findings (e.g. business plans to explore new incentives & opportunities)

### INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Self-teaching, experiential learning, teamwork, discussions, oral and written presentations and business planning

### POTENTIAL GROUP PROJECTS

ACOs and other emerging healthcare organizations  
Bundled payments; ACA and preventative care  
ACA and shortage of primary care providers  
ACA regulations of healthcare

## EVALUATION PLAN

### *Instructor (formative)*

The instructor will use feedback gathered through observation and listening to teams to improve the learning process.

### *Students (formative)*

Students will self-assess and reflect on their learning processes and the effects of the learning on their views and feelings. They will also assess their peers and provide feedback during class discussions. At class conclusion, students will evaluate the instructional strategy and suggest methods of making it more effective.

### *Summative evaluation*

This will include self-, peer-, and instructor evaluations of the inter-professional team projects and of the effectiveness of the class. The summative evaluation feedback will be useful for planning the next class

## POTENTIAL IMPACT

Life-long learners; Inter-professional teams with business plans; inter-professional participation and collaboration in policy formation and implementation; Critical thinking and policy assessment skills;  
Greater awareness of the incentives, challenges of the ACA  
Clarity about the role and responsibilities of care providers in health policy formation, implementation and reform