BAA721
HEALTH ECONOMICS

Semester 2, 2018

Unit Outline

Dr Nazlee Siddiqui
CONTACT DETAILS

Unit coordinator

Unit coordinator: Dr Nazlee Siddiqui
Email: nazlee.siddiqui@utas.edu.au
Consultation hours: By appointment

Lecturer

Unit Lecturer: Dr Nazlee Siddiqui
Email: nazlee.siddiqui@utas.edu.au
Consultation hours: By appointment
CONTENTS

WHAT IS THE UNIT ABOUT? 2

UNIT DESCRIPTION 2

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES 2

ALTERATIONS TO THE UNIT AS A RESULT OF STUDENT FEEDBACK 3

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? 3

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE 3

ASSESSMENT DETAILS 3

WHAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE? 7

RESOURCES 7

ACTIVITIES 8

UNIT SCHEDULE 10

ACCREDITATION 11

AACSB ACCREDITATION 11
NOTICE
This Unit Outline refers to the *Unit Outline Essential Information* resource which includes information, policies and requirements relevant to this unit. **You must read the Essential Information resource as it is considered part of this Unit Outline.**

WHAT IS THE UNIT ABOUT?

**Unit description**

This unit provides an economic perspective of core management agendas in healthcare. Students will be given exposure to a range of health economics topics including; opportunity cost, supply, demand and price elasticity factors, economic evaluation, healthcare funding and contribution of health insurance schemes, understanding the challenges of high value care in health and behavioural economics. Assessments in this unit are designed to enable students to reflect their understanding of theoretical as well as practical aspects of health economics. Students in this unit will have opportunities to hear from experts across Australia, through participation in face-to-face masterclasses and online tutorials.

The unit has particular emphasis on the Australian healthcare system, which ensures a suitable learning experience for all senior managers and executives in the Australian health sector.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Understand the core concepts of economics in managerial decisions in the health sector.
2. Justify appropriate application of economic evaluation in managerial decisions in the health sector.
4. Reflect on the opportunities and challenges of economics in hospitals.
5. Identify problems of economic effectiveness in healthcare agendas and place them within national and global contexts.
Alterations to the unit as a result of student feedback

Online tutorials have been included as such tutorials worked well last time to ensure greater student engagement.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Date due</th>
<th>Percent weighting</th>
<th>Links to Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Task 1: Critical Essay 1</td>
<td>Monday 30 July 2018, 2pm AEST (Week 3)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Task 2: Critical Essay 2</td>
<td>Monday 17 September, 2pm, AEST (Week 9)</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Task 3: Online Discussion Post 1 (A3.1)</td>
<td>Friday 10 August 2018, 2pm AEST (Week 4)</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Task 3: Online Discussion Post 2 (A3.2)</td>
<td>Friday 14 September 2018, 2pm AEST (Week 8)</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Task 3: Online Discussion Post 3 (A3.3)</td>
<td>Friday 12 October 2018, 2pm ADST (Week 12)</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment details

Assessment task 1: Critical Essay 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task description</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This assessment is about understanding the economics of the pharmaceutical market in Australia. This market is an important agenda for health service managers, with projection to reach the $25 billion dollar mark by 2020. Please submit a critical essay, addressing the following topics about the Australian pharmaceutical market:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Identify the major stakeholders (e.g. pharmaceutical organisations, the Australian Government through the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme, consumers of medicine, and clinicians who prescribe medicine) in the pharmaceutical market and discuss their influence on supply, demand and price elasticity of the market.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ii. Explain the concept of economic evaluation. How can this concept be applied to the current Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) in Australia? Discuss the critical issues to check for when applying economic evaluation to justify funding of new medicine in PBS.

A number of interrelated assessment criteria will be applied to judge the quality of work. Some of the relevant major criteria are provided below. A copy of the final version of the assessment criteria and marking scheme will be available through the Assessment area in MyLO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Measures Intended Learning Outcome:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 1</td>
<td>Examine the core economic concepts in managerial decisions in the Australian pharmaceutical market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 2</td>
<td>Explain the concept of economic evaluation and its appropriate application in managerial decisions regarding Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 3</td>
<td>Engage in well-reasoned discussions of economic issues that is evidence-driven and reflects quality academic standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task length</td>
<td>2,200 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due by date</td>
<td>Monday 30 July 2018, 2pm AEST (Week 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment task 2: Critical Essay 2

Task description: This assessment requires you to assess the concept of value in healthcare. Please submit a review on the economic perspective of value by discussing the following:

i. What is value in healthcare? Choose a specific context in an Australian hospital such as acute care and discuss the elements of high and low value care with the broad perspective of a health system.
ii. Critically evaluate one or two distinctive approaches (e.g. value-based purchasing, and public reporting) currently in use to promote high value care in the chosen context, keeping the broad perspective in mind. In this evaluation, you are to refer to the experience of the same approaches in a comparable international health context.

iii. Recommend at least one management intervention that can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of care delivery in the chosen health context.

A number of interrelated assessment criteria will be applied to judge the quality of work. Some of the relevant major criteria are provided below. A copy of the final version of the assessment criteria and marking scheme will be available through the Assessment area in MyLO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Measures Intended Learning Outcome:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 1</strong></td>
<td>Explain ‘value’ in hospital care with a broad perspective, particularly articulating the relevant critical economics concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 2</strong></td>
<td>Critically evaluate the approaches to promote high value care, drawing upon practices in local and global contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 3</strong></td>
<td>Recommend management intervention that is well justified for efficiency and effectiveness in hospital care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 4</strong></td>
<td>Engage in well-reasoned discussions of economic issues that is evidence driven and reflects quality academic standard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Task length**

2,800 words

10% +/- word count/presentation time. Any other variance will attract a penalty. The word count includes such items as headings, quotes and in-text citations. It does not include such items as any appendices, and reference list at the end of the assignment.

**Due by date**

Monday 17 September, 2pm, AEST (Week 9)
**Assessment task 3: Online discussions**

**Task description**

The discussion forums are designed to allow for critical discussion of key concepts introduced in the readings. The discussion forums are related to curriculum concepts that are not assessed in the two written assessment tasks. Additional information about the discussion forums can be found in the assessment area on MyLO.

There will be three (3) online discussion forums held during the semester (weeks 4 to 13 inclusive) and you are required to participate by the dates suggested in the Unit Schedule. The due date for each of the three discussion forums will also be published in MyLO discussion forum section.

In each discussion forum, a student will be asked to select one of three options and make critical comments relevant to the selected topic in 300 words.

You are encouraged to draw on your own professional experience and reflect critically on the topics being covered in this unit, supporting your statement with credible evidence (and applicable in-text citations and a reference list).

A number of interrelated assessment criteria will be applied to judge the quality of work. Some of the relevant major criteria are provided below. A copy of the final version of the assessment criteria and marking scheme will be available through the Assessment area in MyLO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Measures Intended Learning Outcome:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 1</strong></td>
<td>Respond to one question per forum with succinct answer, reflecting understanding of core concepts of economics in managerial decisions in the health sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 2</strong></td>
<td>Answer to the question articulates the opportunities and challenges of economic effectiveness in healthcare agenda, placing them within national and global contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 3</strong></td>
<td>Engage in well-reasoned discussions of economic issues that is evidence-driven, supported with examples of workplace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
practices and reflects quality academic standard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task length</th>
<th>One (1) 300 word post per discussion forum. There are three discussion forums to be completed during the semester. A total of three (3) posts is required.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Due by date | Friday 10 August 2018, 2pm AEST (Week 4)  
Friday 14 September 2018, 2pm AEST (Week 8)  
Friday 12 October 2018, 2pm ADST (Week 12)  
For each of the three Discussion Forums (Forums 1, 2 & 3), you will have to complete the following two steps:  
1. Post your answer in the MyLO Discussion Forum (Communication > Discussion).  
2. Submit two separate documents in the “Assessment 3 Discussion Forum” folders (Assessments > Assignments), which are:  
   - A completed assignment cover sheet.  
   - A Word version of the answer that you posted in the MyLO Discussion Forum (Step 1 above). Also include the selected topic in the Word version.  
Failure to complete the above two steps will result in a delay in feedback on your participation in each discussion forum. |

WHAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE?

Resources

Required readings

There is no prescribed text or software for this unit. The learning materials of the unit will be drawn from publications, journal articles and other credible sources/websites. You will be able to access the learning materials through the Learning Content section of the MyLO unit. Journal articles and other readings will be made available throughout the semester via MyLO.

Recommended readings

There is a set of recommended and supplementary readings available in the Learning Content section of MyLO.
In addition to the recommended and supplementary readings provided on MyLO, you are also expected to be familiar with the key academic journals in the discipline from which useful insights may be derived. In particular, you are encouraged to review regularly the relevant papers that are published in:

- Health Economics
- Journal of Health Economics
- Health Affairs
- Journal of Hospital Medicine
- The European Journal of Health Economics
- Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research
- PharmacoEconomics
- Quality of Life Research
- Value in Health
- The Milbank Quarterly
- Healthcare

**Activities**

**Details of teaching arrangements**

**Master-class**

There is an intensive one-day master-class incorporated into this unit. Master-classes are voluntary. They are designed to expose students to industry leaders in their field and are highly valued. The lecturers will employ a range of teaching techniques to foster participation and critical and applied thinking around the topic. There will be a particular emphasis on practical and problem-based-learning. Class discussions will begin with practice examples and then apply critical and theoretical reasoning to the problems faced. Master-classes are not specifically designed to address the assessment tasks. The topics, format and guest lecturers will be announced early in the session.

The Master-class will be held on **Friday 10 August, 2018** at the Rozelle Campus, University of Tasmania, Sydney. Details of the class will be posted via MyLO once semester has started. Students should make arrangements to attend the Master-class as soon as possible.
Online tutorials

There will be online tutorials arranged around the learning modules. These will be held using the web conferencing facility available in MyLO and will be on nominated **Wednesdays at 5:15 pm AEST** (or ADST where applicable), except where this falls on a public holiday. Some tutorials may include a guest speaker whilst others will focus on an upcoming assessment. Whilst these are not compulsory and are recorded, in the event that no student attends the live session, the tutorial will be closed for that session. Low attendance will reduce the value of the discussion. Attendance allows you to ask any questions you have and receive an immediate response. The dates and times for these online tutorials can be found in the Unit Schedule at the end of this unit outline. Please note that the online tutorial dates may change to accommodate guest presenters.

Specific attendance/performance requirements

As the average study time recommended for a unit in the Master program is approximately 10 hours per week (though this can vary considerably from student to student), you might expect to devote around 130 hours during the semester. The master-classes represent 8 hours of this total. This means that the remaining time should be allocated to reading, participating in MyLO discussion forums, and completing assessment tasks. Some of the expectations we have of you as a student enrolled in this unit are; engaging with the readings provided on MyLO, participate in or listen to recorded online tutorials and regularly monitor MyLO announcements.

In this unit, your active engagement will be monitored in the following way:

1. Submission of assessments.
2. Weekly access in the MyLO site.

If you do not demonstrate evidence of having engaged actively with this unit by completing these two activities by Week 4 of semester, your enrolment may be cancelled or you may be withdrawn from the unit.
# Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Online Tutorial (Wednesday 5:15-6:15 PM)</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-Week</td>
<td>Monday 9 July</td>
<td>Orientation – log into MyLO and familiarise yourself with the unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday 16 July</td>
<td><strong>Module 1</strong>: Overview of health economics &amp; economic evaluation</td>
<td><strong>Online tutorial 1</strong> Wednesday 18 July 5:15 – 6:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Monday 23 July</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Online tutorial 2</strong> Wednesday 25 July 5:15 – 6:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monday 30 July</td>
<td><strong>Module 2</strong>: Economic perspective of challenges in Australian healthcare (Healthcare funding)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Assessment 1</strong>: Monday 30 July 2018, 2pm AEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monday 6 August</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Assessment 3</strong>: Discussion Post 1 Friday 10 August 2018, 2pm AEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MASTER CLASS Friday 10 August 2018</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monday 13 August</td>
<td><strong>Module 3</strong>: Economic perspective of challenges in Australian healthcare (Value in healthcare)</td>
<td><strong>Online tutorial 3</strong> Wednesday 15 August 5:15 – 6:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Monday 20 August</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monday 27 August</td>
<td><strong>Module 4</strong>: Economics of Hospitals</td>
<td><strong>Online tutorial 4</strong> Wednesday 29 August 5:15 – 6:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MID-SEMESTER BREAK 3 – 7 September 2018 (INCLUSIVE)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Monday 10 September</td>
<td><strong>Module 4</strong>: cont’d</td>
<td><strong>Online tutorial 5</strong> Wednesday 12 September 5:15 – 6:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Assessment 3</strong>: Discussion Post 2 Friday 14 September 2018, 2pm AEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Monday 17 September</td>
<td><strong>Module 5</strong>: Behavioural Economics and Healthcare</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Assessment 2</strong>: Monday 17 September 2018, 2pm AEST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ACCREDITATION

### AACSB Accreditation

The Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (TSBE) is currently in the process of applying for business accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) – the lead program for accrediting business schools globally. AACSB seeks to connect educators, students, and business to achieve a common goal – to create the next generation of business leaders.

By joining AACSB and going through the accreditation process, TSBE is joining a global alliance committed to improve the quality of business education around the world, and to share the latest innovations in business education. Gaining Business Accreditation with AACSB is a multi-year process involving TSBE demonstrating our performance against the 15 accreditation standards.

Once complete, TSBE will join a select community of accredited business schools, with only 7% of all business schools globally having completed the AACSB process. This will further enhance the reputation of TSBE, and further enhance the global recognition of your qualifications. To find out more about AACSB click [here](#).