
**The University of Florida College of Pharmacy
Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy**

PHA 5267: Critical Appraisal of Pharmacoeconomic Studies

Sections 5920 (Gainesville), 5930 (Jax), 5932 (Orlando) & 5936 (St. Pete)
Spring 2014

Course Coordinator:

Haesuk Park, Ph.D., Assistant professor
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Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Wei Liu, Ph.D. Student
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Course Email Address:

Email: PHA5267@cop.ufl.edu Please see section in the syllabus called “Communication with Faculty” for an explanation about the use of this email.

Office Hours: Dr.Park and each TA will have one office hour per week where students can visit in person, by phone, or chat (via the course website) without having to make an appointment (see table, below). If a student cannot meet during an office hour, s/he can schedule an appointment to meet at a different time. Please contact Rishi Ramkissoon at course email address to schedule an appointment. Students are assigned to Dr.Park or TAs by campus as shown in the table below.

	Campus	Office Hour/Location
Dr.Park	Gainesville	Wednesday 1:00PM-2:00PM/ HPNP 3325
Wei Liu Rishi Ramkissoon Yoonyoung Choi	Orlando, Jacksonville, and St. Pete	Tuesday 2:00PM-3:00PM/ Online (<i>link posted in “Adobe Connect Resources” folder</i>)

In addition to utilizing office hours, students are encouraged to take advantage of the online discussion board feature on the Sakai course website. The discussion board will be monitored on a daily basis by the TAs. **Please be sure to (a) post your question on the relevant discussion board and (b) review previous posts to determine whether your question already has been addressed.** If you post a question that has been posted and answered previously, your post in most cases will not be addressed by the instructors.

Lectures: Most lectures will be delivered live in Gainesville, **Room C1-11 of the HSC at 10:40AM on Fridays (7 weeks of lectures).** Video recordings of these lectures will be posted to the course web site later on the day that they were delivered. Occasionally it will be necessary to rely on pre-recorded lectures in place of the live class.

iDevices will be used in class to actively engage students through general polling. Registration of iDevice is not necessary but please verify your license is still valid. You can do this by running ResponseWare on your iDevice.

Adobe Connect

Before joining an Adobe Connect session for the first time, please review [this information](#). The link for the Adobe Connect classroom is available on Sakai, as are links to the recordings.

Course Description:

A variety of technological and environmental factors are fueling continued increases in health care expenditures, including pharmaceuticals, in the United States and elsewhere. As a result, both public and private payers of health care have instituted various measures of cost containment, including the economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals, commonly referred to as "Pharmacoeconomics". In this course, we will review decision making tools such as cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis and discuss their application to resource allocation, how these tools are used in practice, and what factors limit their use or interpretation.

Why is this course important? Pharmacoeconomics techniques are becoming increasingly common in the medical and health outcomes literature and as a tool for health care decision making. Pharmacists, through their influence on drug therapy selection, must understand the tools of pharmacoeconomics so that such decisions will be made appropriately. Pharmacoeconomics is an important field of research within the pharmaceutical industry and the larger health care industry, and there are many career opportunities for pharmacists who wish to specialize in this field.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to (1) introduce students to the fundamental methods of pharmacoeconomic analysis and (2) prepare them to read and interpret pharmacoeconomic studies. By the end of this course, students should have a working understanding of the tools for economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals and their use in decision making, including the following:

- Fundamental concepts behind rationing and economic evaluation of health care;
- The role of pharmacoeconomics in the drug development process and health care decision making;

- Strengths and weaknesses of standard pharmacoeconomic approaches available to assess the economic impact of pharmaceutical interventions, including cost-effectiveness analysis, cost-utility analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and cost-minimization analysis; and
- The role of perspective in the selection of study parameters and their impact on study design, costs, and the interpretation of results.

Students will be prepared to make drug therapy decisions and policy recommendations based on pharmacoeconomic information and constructively participate in the debate on health care rationing.

Course Text and Resources:

There is a required text for the course; *Essentials of Pharmacoeconomics, Second Edition, by Karen L. Rascati (Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer, 2013)*

Any additional learning materials and recordings will be accessible through the course website.

Evaluation Techniques: Grades in this course will be based on weekly exercises and a final exam as described below.

Weekly Exercises

Short exercises will be posted on Sakai after most lectures, for a total of **four (4) exercises**. These **individual assignments** are designed to assess your understanding of the material covered in class and in the readings.

If you wish to dispute a grade, then you must do so within 48 hours of when your score was posted and the answer key was published on the course website. Disputes must be submitted by email to the course email address and all disputes must include a rationale backed up with evidence showing why your response is correct. Any disputes after the above-mentioned time window will not be accepted for consideration.

Final Exam

The exam will be held on **Friday, February 28 from 10:40 am to 12:35 pm**. The exam will cover all material presented in lecture, weekly exercises, and assigned readings.

Grading Summary:

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Assignment	Contribution
Weekly Exercises	40% (4 exercise scores @ 10% each)
Final Exam	60%
Total	100%

Scores from each of the assignments will be combined to calculate the final grade. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scheme:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
E	<60%

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments are due by 5:00 pm Gainesville time on the due date specified in the course schedule. No late assignments will be accepted without the instructor's specific permission.

Communication with Faculty:

Sakai will be used for most communications between the faculty and students. Check for new announcements for any course updates. Email will also be used once in a while for mass communication to the class, so please check your email. All emails sent out to the entire class will also be posted as an announcement on Sakai.

General questions about course content or policies should be posted to the discussion board. Students are expected to help each other track down answers as best as possible. When needed, the instructor and/or TAs will respond to posts. Just be sure you are not asking for or giving answers to any assignments as this is considered academic dishonesty. Read through all the other posts in the discussion board first before posting to make sure your question has not been addressed/answered already. Please include clear subjects for your post topics to make the subject your post pertains to clear to others.

Discussion board postings and emails can easily be misinterpreted, so make sure your message is clear before sending it. Discussion postings which may be considered unprofessional by an ordinary person will not be tolerated and will be referred to the appropriate College committee/personnel for action so please do not put the course instructors in the position of having to refer such postings for action.

Email: PHA5267@cop.ufl.edu

All course correspondence should be directed to the course email address. This email address will be checked daily between 5:00PM and 6:00PM EST by the Course Coordinator and TA's. In the subject line, you must specify your campus. If you intend for your email to be read by a specific person, then identify that person's last name in the subject line (e.g., "Jacksonville" for a response from anyone or "Jacksonville – Rishi" for a response specifically from Rishi Ramkissoon).

Academic Honesty:

The conduct of all students is expected to conform to the standards of academic integrity as described in the University of Florida Honor Code. In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The University of Florida Honor Code

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Students should be aware that any use of resources other than those explicitly allowed on an assignment will be considered as academic dishonesty. Plagiarism, which occurs when another person’s work is used or copied without attribution, also will be considered academic dishonesty. Please note that all course assignments are INDIVIDUAL assignments. All incidents of demonstrated or suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Associate Dean for Professional Affairs, and procedures regarding academic dishonesty will be enforced. Students who fail to apply a high level of academic integrity to all conduct related to this course risk receiving a failing grade.

For more information about academic honesty and the University of Florida’s Honor Code, point your browser to the Dean of Students Office and Student Judicial Affairs at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/studenthonorcode.php>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the course instructor when requesting accommodation. Request for accommodation should be made at the beginning of the semester for exams or other assignments due during the semester.

Faculty and Course Evaluations:

Course and instructor evaluations are requirements for the successful completion of this course. Course and instructor evaluations must be completed, just as exams, papers, and assignments must be completed for you to receive credit for this course and all other courses in the College of Pharmacy. If you do not complete all required course and instructor evaluations by the last day of classes, you will receive an "I" or an incomplete grade for the semester because you have not completed all of the course requirements. See the College of Pharmacy Student/Faculty handbook and the UF undergraduate catalog in the Academic Regulations Section regarding policies and procedures for the conversion of "I" grades.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic Readings	Assignments*
Week 1 Jan 10	Course Overview & Introduction to Pharmacoeconomics and Measuring and Estimating Costs <i>Rascati Chapter 1 & 2</i>	No assignment for Week 1
Week 2 Jan 17	Measuring and Estimating Costs & Critiquing Research Articles <i>Rascati Chapter 2 & 3 & 4</i>	Weekly Exercise 1: Critiquing Research Articles Due Jan 22 (Wed)
Week 3 Jan 24	Cost-Effectiveness Analysis <i>Rascati Chapter 5</i>	Weekly Exercise 2: CEA Due Jan 29 (Wed)
Week 4 Jan 31	Cost-Utility Analysis <i>Rascati Chapter 6</i>	No assignment for Week 4
Week 5 Feb 7	Cost-Benefit Analysis <i>Rascati Chapter 7</i>	Weekly Exercise 3: CUA & CBA Due Feb 12 (Wed)
Week 6 Feb 14	Decision Analysis (& Markov Modeling) <i>Rascati Chapter 9</i>	Weekly Exercise 4: Decision Analysis Due Feb 19 (Wed)
Week 7 Feb 21	Health-Related Quality of Life <i>Rascati Chapter 8</i>	No assignment for Week 7
Week 8 Feb 28	FINAL EXAM: Friday February 28th, 10:40 to 12:35 (room TBD)	

* Weekly exercises are due by 5:00pm ET on the due date.