Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 9572Q
Introduction to Health Economics

Time: Monday 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Location: K116

Lab Time: N/A
Lab Location: N/A

Instructor: Monali Malvankar
Office Hours: Monday 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
E-mail: Monali.Malvankar@sjhc.london.on.ca
Phone Extension: 61288
Teaching Assistant: Steven Habbous
E-mail: shabbous@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBA

Course Information

Prerequisites: Undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics or instructor’s permission.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Undergraduate students may seek permission from the Undergraduate Chair and graduate students may do so through the Graduate Chair. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus

This course is designed for undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics who have no prior background in Health Economics. The course objectives are to provide the student with an understanding of the economics concepts and tools relevant to evaluate health programmes, policies and interventions in the field of health & medicine. The topics to be covered are: microeconomic tools for health economics, economic evaluations, basic type of economic evaluations, cost-minimization analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, cost-utility analysis, and cost-benefit analysis.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this term, students should be able to:

- understand the basic economics principles applied to health economics;
- understand key health economics concepts and tools;
understand the logic behind the health economics concepts and methods applied to evaluate health interventions;
identify the differences among cost-minimization, cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost-utility analyses and know the strengths and weaknesses of each technique; and
understand the cost and effectiveness measures in relation to the perspectives undertaken and time-horizon considered.

Course Materials
Required Text:


Other Useful Texts:

I. Microeconomic Tools
   Scarcity, opportunity cost, demand, supply, market equilibrium
   Readings: Hurley Chapters 2-3

II. Health Economic Evaluation
   Cost-effectiveness, Cost-utility and Cost-benefit Analyses
   Readings: Drummond et al. Chapters 2, 3, 5-7; Hurley Chapter 4


Methods of Evaluation
The assignments and exams will be based on lecture material, assigned readings from the textbooks, journal articles and all other assigned course materials. You are encouraged to work together with your fellow classmates on the assignments, but the answers and interpretation of the results should be your own. The course requirements and their weights in the final grade are as follows:

- 15% - Class Participation
- 5% - Assignment
- 20% - Presentations: 10% each
- 60% - Final Project

Policy on Accommodation for Medical and Non-Medical Absences
For assignments worth 10% or more, refer to Western University’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

All non-medical absences must be approved in advance. In the case of an unexpected absence on compassionate grounds, documentation may be requested. If documentation is required by the instructor for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Statement on Academic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Support Services
As part of a successful student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/
Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate or undergraduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at
http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

**Department & Faculty Offices**
The Epidemiology & Biostatistics main office is located in K201 in the Kresge Building on Main campus.

For undergraduate academic counselling assistance, students will need to speak with the Bachelor of Medical Sciences Office: http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/bmsc/general-counselling.

**Technology Requirements**
You are responsible for all required course materials and announcements posted to the course’s OWL website. Please ensure after the first class that when you log in you are able to access the course site. A copy of the course outline will be available on both OWL and the departmental website.