Health Policy & Management

The Department of Health Policy & Management examines and evaluates health systems and leads in thinking about how nations and local organizations can deliver more effective care. We are also home to education, research, and service programs that provide students with the skills, networks, credentials, and practical experience to obtain professional positions in a complex and changing healthcare environment.

Our faculty and research define, develop, and implement needed solutions to critical healthcare challenges.

Examples of our work:

• Improving access and quality of care while containing costs
• Meeting the needs of populations that are aging and also growing more diverse
• Improving the efficiency of a healthcare system that is fragmented, decentralized, and filled with disparities

The Department also trains the next generation of healthcare managers and policymakers using a combination of teaching methods. Case studies and a multi-hospital marketplace simulation are among the unique curricula components that we use to connect theories and models to the realities of the workplace.

MISSION

Our mission is to advance theory and practice throughout the healthcare industry and to produce a more equitable and more efficient health system. This mission is fulfilled through research and education focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of health policies and the administrative functioning of health systems and organizations.

HISTORY

Founded in 1945 as one of the first health policy and management programs in the country, we have a long history of participation in research, teaching, and service.
Our faculty represent a range of disciplines including business, economics, health systems, law, medicine, political science, psychology, and public health. Healthcare executives and senior health policy experts regularly join the classroom as adjunct instructors and guest lecturers, integrating current practical applications to supplement a strong academic curriculum.

Professor and Department Chair Michael Sparer, JD, PhD, spent seven years as a litigator, specializing in inter-governmental social welfare litigation. This experience led him to study the politics of healthcare, with a particular emphasis on the health insurance and health delivery systems for low-income populations, and the ways in which inter-governmental relations influence policy.

Select projects and research

- The assessment and implementation of the Affordable Care Act in New York State as part of a nationwide evaluation.
- Evaluation of several Accountable Care Organizations in an effort to understand the organizational, political, and economic factors that affect these health delivery systems.
- The study of the effectiveness of various public policies in reducing obesity rates.
- Research evaluating the political economy of bio-medical innovation.
- The examination of politics and design surrounding Medicare’s physician reimbursement.
- The development of Better Health Systems, a program designed to study healthcare coverage and quality in low-, middle-, and high-income nations.
- NCCP, the National Center for Children in Poverty, one of the nation’s leading centers for research into child poverty and health.
- The creation and implementation of the HealthSquare Simulation, a risk-free exercise that simulates the full breadth and complexity of a competitive multi-hospital marketplace.
- Advancement of the Professional Development Program, a seminar and practicum experience which help students develop interpersonal skills and career strategies.
- Consulting Workshop, a course which builds skills in strategic thinking, teamwork and effective communication while tackling a healthcare management challenge.

Our students

Graduates go on to leadership positions in hospitals, consulting firms, public health departments, and other government and non-governmental organizations. Alumni hold positions in countless international and domestic organizations such as Rabin Martin, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Merck & Co, Deloitte Consulting, Unilever PLC, Toronto East General Hospital, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Pfizer, Aetna, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

BY THE NUMBERS 2013-2014

400 Master’s Students

21-66 Age Range

22 States Represented

9 Nations Represented