I. Catalog Description and credit hours:

An introduction to policies impacting health administration. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisite(s): Admissions into the MBA program or approval of MBA Director

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

A. To relate the history of health care policy in the United States to current health care issues

B. To integrate and utilize information from health care web sites as a resource to be informed about health policy issues.

C. To critique the policy impact of the five major health issues—access, cost, quality, resource allocation, and accountability.

D. To understand how the concepts of social change, social structure, policy capacity, and policy coherence have influenced the five major health care issues.

E. To analyze, formulate and present policy positions relating to current or future health care issues.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to:

A. Critique the policy impact of five major health issues – access, cost, quality, resource allocation, and accountability.

B. Critique how the concepts of social change, social structure, policy capacity, and policy coherence impact health administration policy.

C. Utilize and integrate information from health care web sites to be informed about health policy issues.

V. Expectations of Students:

A. Students will complete all case assignments and exams.

B. Students will participate in class discussions.

C. Students will complete the final paper.

D. Students will complete group project.
VI. Course Content or Outline (Estimated Hours Per Section)

**Introduction**

**History of Health Policy in the United States**
A. When did the federal government get involved in health care
B. Why is public policy relating to health care necessary
C. Policy prior to Medicare
D. How Medicare policy was formed
E. Health care since Medicare
F. Medicare’s impact on commercial insurance
G. Where do we go from here

**Access Health Care**
A. What do we mean by access
B. Types of access—potential, realized, equitable, inequitable, effective, efficient
C. Impact of social structure on access
D. Access in other industrialized countries
E. Values of decision-makers relating to problem of access
F. Dispersed model vs. top-heavy model
G. Free market camp vs. egalitarian camp

**Costs of Health Care**
A. Impact of health care insurance
B. The problem of moral hazard.
C. Impact of Medicare
D. Impact of technology
E. Government attempts to control cost
F. Can government control cost

**Midterm Exam**

**Quality of Health Care**
A. Donabedian model of health care quality
B. Structure of quality
C. Process of quality
D. Outcomes
E. Competition, regulation, and professionalism

**Special Populations—Resource Allocation**
A. Taxonomy of care
B. Allocation efficiency—treatment if ineffective or effectiveness is uncertain
C. Treatment that is ethically troubling or not an efficient allocation of resources
D. Practice parameters—Rand’s “waste cutting” approach
E. Medicine is not an exact science

**Accountability—Direction for Change**
A. Why is health care is both a public good and a private good
B. Government as largest purchaser of health care
C. Physicians as professionals—definition of a professional
D. Accountability to—patient, government, insurance carrier, society
E. Who should be responsibility for accountability
F. Who is responsibility for accountability

**Final Exam**
VII. Textbooks or Other Reading Material:


2. *Can GM Slash Workers Benefits?* Parlof, Roger
   Fortune, 7/25/2005

3. *A Collision Course for GM and the UAW* Naughton, Keith
   Newsweek, 6/20/05

4. *Introduction to Quality Assurance in Health Care*
   Donabedian A.

5. *Patient Safety*
   Leapfrog Quality Index
   Health Management Technology, Jan 2005

6. *Asleep at the Switch: Local Public Health and Chronic Disease*
   Frieden, Thomas
   American Journal of Public Health, Dec 2004

7. *Lack of National Primary Care Organization Partnerships With Community Groups to Promote Health Care Reform*
   Schlaff, Anthony L.
   American Journal of Public Health, May 2005

8. *Human Error*
   Reason James

9. *A Roadmap for Health Care Accountability*
   Miller, Frances H.
   Hastings Center Report, Mar/Apr 2003

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Performance on scheduled exams

B. Performance on group project

C. Performance on case assignments

D. Performance on final paper

E. Performance in class discussions

Specific assignments and the percentage of the course grade will be explained in class.