

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Quality Enhancement Plan: Healthcare Policy for Health Professionals (HP²)

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's (UTHealth Houston) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is titled "Healthcare Policy for Health Professionals (HP²)." **The goals of this QEP are to strengthen existing health policy curricula, develop new learning opportunities across campus, implement, assess and refine these new initiatives, and ensure their long-term sustainability.** These goals are consistent with the feedback gathered from both students and faculty stakeholders as well as seminal reports calling for better integration of health policy into health sciences education. The Campus-Wide Humanities and Ethics Program (CWHEP), which has faculty representation from all six schools at UTHealth Houston, will oversee the execution of this QEP. The CWHEP Steering Committee faculty, representing and in collaboration with each of their respective schools at UTHealth Houston, initially identified health policy in 2017 when exploring academic areas across the campus that needed improvement. Given the impact that policy has on healthcare providers, scientists in the biomedical and health sciences, as well as UTHealth Houston's goal to better prepare students to succeed in a changing health care environment, a QEP focused on enhancing health policy education supports the university's mission and strategic plan. Broadly, the QEP will:

- Ensure that all students have a fundamental understanding of how policy is made at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Provide students with learning opportunities to design and evaluate health policies.
- Provide the faculty and others engaged in this topic with the necessary tools and training to successfully implement this QEP.
- Identify, develop, and obtain the appropriate assessment tools necessary for evaluating existing curricula and measuring and assessing the learning outcomes for our proposed plan activities.
- Strengthen the current health policy curricula as well as assessments of existing courses.
- Plan and assess school-specific Health Policy Forums.
- Expand and assess the advocacy curriculum.

Health care policy is relevant to every professional position our graduates will assume and it is important that our students have a foundation in and the analytical tools necessary to assess and influence how science, public health and healthcare agendas are established, funded and delivered in the 21st century. New and enhanced health policy education aligns with the university's goal to better prepare students to succeed in a changing environment.

HP² is a five-year plan that is focused on enhancing student learning and knowledge about healthcare policy, with a secondary focus on facilitating students' skills in applying this knowledge. Specifically, students will exhibit knowledge and skills in: 1) evaluating key factors in how health policy is made and modified in the U.S. healthcare system; 2) explaining the role that government and nongovernment agencies play in science and scientific innovation; and 3) analyzing how health policy influences how healthcare is accessed, delivered, and financed in the United States.

Contact

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