

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

HCA6970.E1
Fall 2026

Healthcare Economics & Financial Theory

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Dr. Ron Norris
Amberton Extension: 972-489-9227 Office: 972-279-6511 ext. 279
Email Address: **RNorris@Amberton.edu**

COURSE INFORMATION:

HCA6970.E1 Healthcare Economics & Financial Theory

Level: Graduate

Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026

Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

PREREQUISITES:

A basic understanding of economics and accounting principles is recommended.

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Introduction to the Financial Management of Healthcare Organizations
Author: Michael Nowickit
Publisher: Health Administration Press
Year Published: 2024
Edition: 9th
ISBN: 10: xxxxxxxxxx or 13: 781640554177
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Students should verify enrollment in course before purchasing textbooks. Textbook information and ordering options are available through the Amberton Virtual Bookstore. Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping.

APA Requirement

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

This advanced 10-week course is specifically designed for Master of Healthcare Administration students who aspire to leadership roles in today's rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. The curriculum, which spans theoretical foundations and practical applications, is aimed at developing a robust understanding of healthcare economics and financial management. By the end of the course, students will be well-equipped to navigate complex economic challenges and make informed financial decisions, thereby preparing them for the leadership roles they seek.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Analyzing Healthcare economic issues
2. Managing Healthcare Financial Issues

3. Understanding Healthcare Reimbursement Systems and their impact
4. Understanding Value-Based Care and Alternative Payment Models and their impact
5. Adopting emerging Healthcare Technologies for use in Innovation
6. Developing Strategic Financial Planning
7. Applying Ethical Decision-Making in Healthcare Finance
8. Communicating Financial and Economic Concepts to diverse stakeholders
9. Data Analytics for Data-Informed Decision Making
10. Understanding and Utilizing Artificial Intelligence for increased efficiency and effectiveness
11. Evaluating strategies for effective revenue cycle management
12. Integrating economic trends and forecasts into long-term financial planning
13. Applying risk assessment and management principles in financial strategy development
14. Interpreting and using benchmarking data for performance improvement
15. Applying critical thinking skills to novel economic and financial challenges in healthcare
16. Evaluating financial strategies in the context of healthcare equity and access

ACQUIRED SKILLS:

1. Decision-Making using Financial Analysis
2. Understanding Healthcare Reimbursement Systems
3. Utilizing Healthcare Technologies for Innovation

COURSE POLICIES:

To maintain fairness and academic integrity, I do not accept late work in this course. Deadlines are set to ensure timely feedback and a structured learning experience for all students. Please plan accordingly and reach out in advance if you anticipate any challenges meeting a deadline.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper

- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text.

Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed similarity report that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin “Draft Coach” is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student’s writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
WK 1: Sep 12-18	Chapter 1 & 2	DQ 1	Analyzing Healthcare Economic Issues understanding Healthcare Reimbursement Systems and Their Impact	Sep 20
WK 2: Sep 19-25	Chapter 3 & 4	DQ2, Case Study 1	Managing Healthcare Financial Issues Communicating Financial and Economic Concepts	Sep 27

			to Diverse Stakeholders	
WK 3: Sep 26-Oct 2	Chapter 5 & 6	DQ 3	Applying Risk Assessment and Management Principles in Financial Strategy Development Interpreting and Using Benchmarking Data for Performance Improvement	Oct 4
WK 4: Oct 3-9	Chapter 7 & 8	DQ4, Case Study 2	Developing Strategic Financial Planning Applying Ethical Decision-Making in Healthcare Finance	Oct 11
WK 5: Oct 10-16	Chapter 9 & 10	DQ 5	Applying Critical Thinking Skills to Novel Economic and Financial Challenges in Healthcare Integrating Economic Trends and Forecasts into Long-Term Financial Planning	Oct 18
WK 6: Oct 17-23	Chapter 11 & 12	DQ 6, Case Study 3	Evaluating Financial Strategies in the Context of Healthcare Equity and Access Managing Healthcare Financial Issues	Oct 25
WK 7: Oct 24-30	Chapter 13 & 14	DQ 7, Final Project Posted Due Nov 17	Developing Strategic Financial Planning Applying Risk Assessment and Management Principles in Financial Strategy	Nov 1

WK 8: Oct 31-Nov 6	Chapter 15 & 16	DQ 8	Evaluating Strategies for Effective Revenue Cycle Management Understanding Value-Based Care and Alternative Payment Models and their Impact	Nov 8
WK 9: 7-13	Chapter 17	DQ 9	Data Analytics for Data-Informed Decision Making Interpreting and Using Benchmarking Data for Performance Improvement	Nov 15
WK 10: Nov 14-19	Supplemental	Final Project	Adopting Emerging Healthcare Technologies for Use in Innovation Understanding and Utilizing Artificial Intelligence for Increased Efficiency and Effectiveness	Nov 17, 2026

GRADING CRITERIA:

20% Discussion Post

40% Case Studies

40% Final Project

Graduate

92 – 100 A

82 – 91 B

72 – 81 C

62 – 71 D

Below 62 F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE:

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:**SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY:**

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION:

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (library@amberton.edu), phone (972-

279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.