

# Economics (ECON) 321

## Health Care Economics (Revision 5)

**Delivery mode:** [Individualized study online](#)  with [eText](#) 

**Credits:** 3



**Area of study:** Applied Study

**Prerequisites:** None. A basic understanding of mathematics would be an asset to the student.

**Precluded:** ECON 321 is a cross listed course—a course listed under two different disciplines—with HADM 321. ECON 321 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for HADM 321.

**Challenge:** ECON 321 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Health Disciplines](#) 

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

## Overview

The primary purpose of ECON 321 is to introduce you to the field of health care economics. Like other economics courses, *Health Care Economics* is primarily concerned with how scarce resources are allocated. Much of the material presented in this course is similar to that found in an introductory economics course, but the emphasis here is on how concepts such as supply and demand, cost, and utility are applied to the health care sector. In this course students examine how the economic behaviours of health care consumers and suppliers, particularly in Canada, affect the manner in which resources are allocated.

## Outline

ECON 321 comprises the following nine units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Health Care Economics
- Unit 2: Outputs and Outcomes—The Products of the Health Care System
- Unit 3: Economic Dimensions of the Canadian Health Care System
- Unit 4: The Demand for Health Care
- Unit 5: Cost
- Unit 6: Supply of Health Care Services
- Unit 7: Demand and Supply
- Unit 8: Specific Market Models used in Health Care
- Unit 9: The Labour Market

## Objectives

Each unit specifies learning objectives that students are encouraged to achieve in order to successfully complete the course. The course, as a whole, has been designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills that you will need to achieve the following:

- describe and discuss the concepts of health status and health care utilization, and the relationship between the two.
- describe the organization of the health care system in Canada, in terms of specific economic dimensions.
- use economic analysis to predict patterns of health care utilization.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ECON 321, you must achieve a **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) or higher on each evaluation activity. The weighting of the course grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	25%
Assignment 2	25%
Final Exam	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **final examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the [Exam Invigilation Network](#) [↗](#).

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) [↗](#).

## Materials

Hicks, Lanis, L. (2014). *Economics of health and medical care* (6<sup>th</sup> ed).

Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.  (eText)

## eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).

## Other materials

Most of the course materials for ECON 321 are available online through the myAU portal.


## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The Challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **Challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

### Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the ECON 321 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **C- (60 percent  )** on the examination.

Paper Exam



**Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

› **Academic advising** [↗](#)

- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 5, November 26, 2014*

*Updated July 28, 2022, by Student & Academic Services*

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