

Students enrolled in the PhD Program in Health Policy select one of the following seven areas in which to concentrate. A list of course requirements for each concentration may be obtained at the program website:

<http://www.healthpolicy.fas.harvard.edu/concentrations.htm>

DECISION SCIENCES

Decision sciences are the collection of quantitative techniques that are used for decision-making at the individual and collective level. They include decision analysis, risk analysis, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis, decision modeling, and behavioral decision theory, as well as parts of operations research, microeconomics, statistical inference, management control, cognitive and social psychology, and computer science. The concentration in decision sciences prepares students for research careers that involve the application of these methods to health problems. Examples of research topics in health decision sciences include: cost-effectiveness analysis of medical technologies and pharmaceuticals; optimal screening policies for cancer and other chronic diseases; measurement and evaluation of health outcomes, including quality of life; policy simulation modeling of diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, cancer, and asthma; and optimal resource allocation for biomedical research.

Faculty associated with track:

Milton C. Weinstein, Chair, Decision Sciences Concentration, and Henry J. Kaiser Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Kenneth A. Freedberg, Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

G. Scott Gazelle, Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

Sue J. Goldie, Roger Irving Lee Professor of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health

James K. Hammitt, Professor of Economics and Decision Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health

M. G. Myriam Hunink, Adjunct Professor of Health Policy, Harvard School of Public Health

Jane J. Kim, Assistant Professor of Health Decision Science, Harvard School of Public Health

Karen M. Kuntz, Adjunct Professor of Health Decision Science, Harvard School of Public Health

Tracy A. Lieu, Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

Peter J. Neumann, Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine

Joseph Pliskin, Adjunct Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

Lisa A. Prosser, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School

Howard Raiffa, Frank Plumpton Ramsey Professor of Managerial Economics, Emeritus, Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School

Joshua Salomon, Associate Professor of International Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Uwe Siebert, Associate Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School

Rochelle P. Walensky, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Jane C. Weeks, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

Richard C. Zeckhauser, Frank Plumpton Ramsey Professor of Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School

ECONOMICS

The concentration in economics focuses on the economic behavior of individuals; providers; insurers; and international, federal, state, and local governments and actors as their actions affect health and medical care. In addition to examining the literature on health economics, the training emphasizes microeconomic theory, econometrics, and interactions with other disciplines, including clinical medicine. The concentration prepares students for research and teaching careers as health economists.

Faculty associated with track:

Joseph P. Newhouse, Chair, Economics Concentration, and John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard Kennedy School

Katherine Baicker, Professor of Health Economics, Harvard School of Public Health

David Bloom, Clarence James Gamble Professor of Economics and Demography, Harvard School of Public Health

David Canning, Professor of Economics and International Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Amitabh Chandra, Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Michael Chernew, Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

David Cutler, Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Harvard Kennedy School

Erica Field, Assistant Professor of Economics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Richard Frank, Margaret T. Morris Professor of Health Economics, Harvard Medical School

David Grabowski, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Jerry Green, John Leverett Professor and David A. Wells Professor of Political Economy, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Harvard Business School

William Hsiao, K.T. Li Professor Economic Development and Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Robert S. Huckman, Associate Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

Haiden Huskamp, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Michael Kremer, Gates Professor of Developing Societies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Thomas McGuire, Professor of Health Economics, Harvard Medical School

Ellen Meara, Associate Professor of Health Economics, Harvard Medical School

Meredith Rosenthal, Associate Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Harvard School of Public Health

Katherine Swartz, Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Harvard School of Public Health

Richard Zeckhauser, Frank Plumpton Ramsey Professor of Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School

ETHICS

The ethics concentration integrates quantitative, qualitative, and normative approaches to the analysis of ethical issues in health policy and clinical practice. Increasingly, the investigation of ethical issues in medicine and health policy has not only drawn on normative ethics and political philosophy, but has included empirical research concerning attitudes and practices in clinical and broader institutional settings. A grasp of normative theories and tools is important because ethical principles and approaches underlie, explicitly or implicitly, the formulation of particular health policies at both the macro and micro level. Students in this track will focus on developing skills in a range of disciplines, with the goal of evaluating how ethical and socio-cultural values shape – and should shape – health policies as well as clinical and public health practices. Students with a strong background in ethics and political philosophy will have a chance to deepen that understanding and apply it to issues in health policy, while at the same time acquiring necessary quantitative skills. Students with degrees or training in related fields, such as law or medicine or public health, will acquire both normative and quantitative skills needed for research and teaching in ethics and health policy.

Research in health policy and ethics would include such topics as: policies for the allocation of scarce resources to individuals (e.g., human organs for transplantation, newly developed drugs, hospital beds) and across categories of patients (treatment vs prevention for HIV/AIDS, or for HIV/AIDS vs malaria); policies for care at the beginning and end of life; evaluation of informed consent protocols and their effectiveness; issues of equity in the evaluation of policies determining access to health services and the reduction of risk factors; policies responding to cross-cultural variation in ethical norms; ways in which health professionals are educated; policies regarding the balance between the individual and the collective (e.g., in bio-terrorism, epidemic control, etc.). While not abandoning the concerns of traditional work in bioethics, the program aims to produce students who are interested in the ethics of population health. Accordingly, all students in this track will develop core skills for the conduct of both normative analysis and empirical research in ethics.

Faculty associated with track:

Norman Daniels, Chair, Ethics Concentration, Mary B. Saltonstall Professor of Population Ethics and Professor of Ethics and Population Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Arthur Applbaum, Professor of Ethics and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Allan M. Brandt, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of the History of Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Amalie Moses Kass Professor of the History of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Dan W. Brock, Frances Glessner Lee Professor of Medical Ethics, Harvard Medical School

I. Glenn Cohen, Assistant Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

Nicholas Christakis, Professor of Medical Sociology, Harvard Medical School, and Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Frances Kamm, Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, and Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Lisa Lehmann, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics, Harvard Medical School

Thomas M. Scanlon, Alford Professor of Natural Religion, Moral Philosophy, and Civil Polity, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

David Stevenson, Assistant Professor of Health Policy, Harvard Medical School

Daniel Wikler, Mary B. Saltonstall Professor of Population Ethics and Professor of Ethics and Population Health, Harvard School of Public Health

EVALUATIVE SCIENCE AND STATISTICS

Training in this concentration will enable students to study the effects of a wide range of policies and health services (e.g., health insurance, health-care quality improvement, clinical decision-making, drug policy, cost-containment, and socioeconomic factors) on behaviors, access, processes and quality of health care, health outcomes, or costs. Students in this concentration will develop proficiency in experimental and quasi-experimental research design, statistics, relevant social sciences, and other methodological approaches (e.g., epidemiology, program evaluation, qualitative methods, and survey design). Previous students in this track have used innovative methodological and statistical approaches to study, for example:

POLICY EVALUATION

- Impact of acquiring Medicare coverage on the health of previously uninsured adults
- Effects on health behavior of insurance restrictions on maternity lengths of stay
- Effects of drug coverage on access to essential medications in Medicare
- Effects of regulatory changes in legal drinking ages on health and mortality

QUALITY OF CARE AND CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING

- Effects of physician experiences with adverse medical events on under-prescribing of essential medicines
- A controlled natural experiment on the effectiveness of direct to consumer drug advertising

DISPARITIES

- Effects of near-universal Medicare coverage on disparities in cardiovascular disease and diabetes control
- Methods to estimate racial/ethnic health care disparities and their effects on health

COMPARATIVE HEALTH POLICY

- International differences in health outcomes following medical care for acute myocardial infarction

POPULATION HEALTH

- Effects of unemployment on mortality

Faculty associated with track:

Stephen Soumerai, Co-Chair, Evaluative Science and Statistics Concentration, and Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School

Alan Zaslavsky, Co-Chair, Evaluative Science and Statistics Concentration, and Professor of Health Care Policy (Statistics), Harvard Medical School

Alberto Abadie, Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Alyce S. Adams, Research Scientist, Kaiser Permanente, and Adjunct Lecturer, Harvard Medical School

John Z. Ayanian, Professor of Health Care Policy and Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

Arnold M. Epstein, John H. Foster Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine and Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Majid Ezzati, Associate Professor of International Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Guido Imbens, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Gary King, David Florence Professor of Government, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Mary Beth Landrum, Associate Professor of Health Policy (Biostatistics), Harvard Medical School

Dan Levy, Lecturer in Public Policy and Faculty Chair, MPA Programs, Harvard Kennedy School

Richard J. Light, Walter H. Gale Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Harvard Kennedy School

Barbara J. McNeil, Ridley Watts Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School, and Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School

Carl N. Morris, Professor of Statistics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Sharon-Lise Normand, Professor of Health Care Policy (Biostatistics), Harvard Medical School, and Professor in the Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

Dennis Ross-Degnan, Associate Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School

Donald B. Rubin, John L. Loeb Professor of Statistics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Katherine Swartz, Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Harvard School of Public Health

MANAGEMENT

The management track prepares students to do research on the organizational, managerial, and strategic issues facing health care providers, payers, and other players in the health care market. Students in this track will learn how theories and concepts from fields such as technology and operations management, organizational behavior, organizational economics, and competitive strategy can be applied to – and further developed for understanding – health care organizations. Students in this track should have a strong interest in pursuing research on such issues as the design and improvement of health care delivery processes, approaches for improving health care quality and productivity, the development and adoption of new medical technologies, financial incentives in health care, the new role of patients as consumers in health care, the appropriate ownership and organizational structure of hospitals and other health care providers, and the management of professional health care staffs. We expect students completing this track to find jobs in academic and research institutions that have an interest in the impact of management on health care. These institutions would include business schools, as well as medical schools, schools of public health, and schools of public policy.

Faculty associated with track:

Amy C. Edmondson, Co-Chair, Management Concentration, Novartis Professor of Leadership and Management, Harvard Business School
Robert S. Huckman, Co-Chair, Management Concentration, Associate Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
Julie Battilana, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
David Blumenthal, Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School
Richard M. Bohmer, Senior Lecturer of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
Clayton M. Christensen, Robert and Jane Cizik Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
Richard Hamermesh, MBA Class of 1961 Professor of Management Practice, Harvard Business School
Robert Higgins, Senior Lecturer, Harvard Business School
Ashish Jha, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, and Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Nancy Kane, Professor of Management, Harvard School of Public Health
Robert S. Kaplan, Baker Foundation Professor, Harvard Business School
Peter V. Marsden, Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
F. Warren McFarlan, T.J. Dermot Dunphy Baker Foundation Professor of Business Administration, Albert H. Gordon Professor of Business Administration, Emeritus, Harvard Business School
Barbara J. McNeil, Ridley Watts Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School
Joseph P. Newhouse, John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard Kennedy School
Gary P. Pisano, Harrie E. Figgie, Jr. Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
Michael E. Porter, Bishop William Lawrence University Professor, Harvard Business School
William Simpson, Lecturer and Principal Statistician, Harvard Business School
Daniel C. Snow, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
Anita Tucker, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

In this track, students will learn about, and contribute to knowledge in, several research areas that are extremely important to health policy, including the study of professions and professional behavior, the structure of health care organizations and systems, the impact of organizational and professional change on the structure of medical work, organizational improvement programs and their evaluation, the diffusion of innovations across providers and organizations, and the behavior of patients and consumers—including consumer evaluations of health care quality and patient perspectives on the process and outcomes of care.

Research on these substantive topics will be necessarily interdisciplinary. In particular, students should develop a strong grounding in psychological and sociological theories of individual behavior and theories of institutions, organizations, and professions.

In order to pursue substantive studies in these areas, students must possess strong analytic skills and be capable of using a broad range of social science methods. Some of this training will be accomplished prior to admission, and some through completion of the Program's statistics requirements. In addition, students in this track will need to acquire a range of methodological skills that go beyond statistical analysis. We envision that many graduates will acquire strong data collection skills, including survey design and administration as well as more qualitative approaches to research, such as in-depth and cognitive interviewing. Additionally, students may require special quantitative skills such as methods for gathering and analyzing data on social networks or diffusion processes.

We anticipate that students graduating from this track will seek research positions in health services organizations, research positions in research organizations and institutes, faculty positions in schools of medicine, public health, or social science departments, or positions in government agencies.

Major content areas:

Health Care Organization; Professions; Consumer Behavior; Social Determinants of Health/Social Epidemiology

Faculty associated with track:

Nicholas Christakis, Chair, Medical Sociology Concentration, and Professor of Medical Sociology, Harvard Medical School, and Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Peter Marsden, Co-Chair, Medical Sociology Concentration, Harvard College Professor and Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Margarita Alegria, Professor of Psychology, Harvard Medical School

John Ayanian, Professor of Health Care Policy and Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Jason Beckfield, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Lisa Berkman, Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Public Policy and of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health

Donald M. Berwick, Professor of Health Care Policy and Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

David Blumenthal, Samuel O. Thier Professor of Medicine and Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Filiz Garip, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Mary-Jo Good, Professor of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Steven Gortmaker, Professor of Health and Social Behavior, Harvard School of Public Health

David Grabowski, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

LeRoi Hicks, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Instructor in Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Ichiro Kawachi, Professor of Social Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health

Nancy Keating, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy and Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Ronald Kessler, Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Arthur M. Kleinman, Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Anthropology, Harvard Medical School

Bruce Landon, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy and Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Thomas McGuire, Professor of Health Economics, Harvard Medical School

Mary Ruggie, Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Robert Sampson, Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Stephen Soumerai, Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School

David Stevenson, Assistant Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

S V Subramanian, Associate Professor of Society, Human Development, and Health, Harvard School of Public Health

David Williams, Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

This concentration is intended for students who wish to do research on the relationship between politics and health policy. Students will study theories of individual opinion formation, voting behavior, legislative organization, and interest group formation. In addition, students will examine the role of public opinion, interest groups, the media, and institutions in influencing health policy outcomes. The research methodologies most utilized in this track include survey research methods and quantitative statistical methods appropriate for large-scale databases. Graduates of this concentration will likely teach and do research on the politics of health care and will be involved with government, professional, and consumer groups on research projects related to the politics of public policy in the public health and health services fields.

Faculty associated with track:

Robert J. Blendon, Chair, Political Analysis Concentration, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis, Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Kennedy School

Daniel Carpenter, Allie S. Freed Professor of Government, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

D. Sunshine Hillygus, Frederick S. Danziger Associate Professor of Government, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

David King, Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Gary King, David Florence Professor of Government, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Michelle Mello, Professor of Law and Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Paul E. Peterson, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Theda Skocpol, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences