

Guided Study: Foundations of Connecticut Health Policy

Fall 2025

Sponsored by the [CT Health Policy Project](#),

Course website: www.learncthealth.org

Course Description

This course will cut through Connecticut's confusing health policy landscape with an overview of health policy structures impacting state residents. Students will have the opportunity to critically analyze basic concepts, principles, and consequences of health delivery and payment in the state.

At the conclusion of this course, students will have accomplished three goals. First, students will have a comprehensive understanding of the primary stakeholders, interactions, and routes to effective health policy and the obstacles hindering further growth. Second, students will be able to think about healthcare policy in critical and nuanced ways. Finally, students will be able to chart a path for healthcare policy improvement.

Faculty:

Ellen Andrews, PhD, *CT Health Policy Project*

Learning Objectives:

- Students will understand the foundations of health policy in Connecticut
- Students will be familiar with processes of policymaking in Connecticut and how they have influence
- Students will be familiar with resources and research to navigate Connecticut policymaking

Students should have:

- Curiosity and enthusiasm about understanding and improving health policy
- Willingness to learning about new areas
- Comfortable with exploring across Connecticut's health system
- Experience or interest in writing, communications, and research for health policy
- Diverse perspectives encouraged

Expectations:

- Each week, watch narrated videos for each week, read the readings, participate in lunchtime virtual discussions
- Evaluate what you've learned and share your perspective
- Expect to devote two or three hours per week, but there will be opportunities to learn more

- Expect participants come to class having viewed the video and the readings

Optional:

- In person discussions, networking
- Final dinner – potentially at Mory's, New Haven

Structure of class:

- For each week/topic there will be a video with narrated slides, a reading/resource list, self-assessment, and Wednesday noon lunchtime hour discussions with faculty on the week's topic – see calendar below
- All class materials, including videos, will be posted on a dedicated Google drive
- In-person meeting opportunities, potentially including a final dinner at Mory's

Course “textbooks” – CT Healthcare Explained, www.cthealthexplained.org, no cost

KFF Health Policy 101, <https://www.kff.org/health-policy-101/>, no cost

Additional readings will be accessible through public link and/or on Google Drive

Faculty is available for questions by email or by appointment

Certificate option available from the CT Health Policy Project

Course Calendar

Week of	Topic	Lunchtime Zoom All at noon
Sept 8	Intro: Basics of Connecticut's Health System	Sept 10
Sept 15	Medicaid – The Safety Net, Part 1	Sept 17
Sept 22	Week off	
Sept 29	Medicare – The Safety Net, Part 2	Oct 1
Oct 6	Commercial Health Insurance Coverage	Oct 8
Oct 13	Week off	
Oct 20	Quality – Are We Getting What We're Paying For?	Oct 22
Oct 27	Public Health – Big Picture Health Improvements	Oct 29
Nov 3	Week off	
Nov 10	Week off	
Nov 17	Paying for Healthcare: Healthcare Economics and Market Failures	Nov 19
Nov 24	Week off -- Happy Thanksgiving	
Dec 1	Workforce Development – The People Who Make It All Work	Dec 3
Dec 8	Payment and Delivery Reforms – Fixing The System?	Dec 10
Dec 15	The Future: Trends, Federal Changes, Innovation	Dec 17
Equity and diversity will be woven through the entire class		