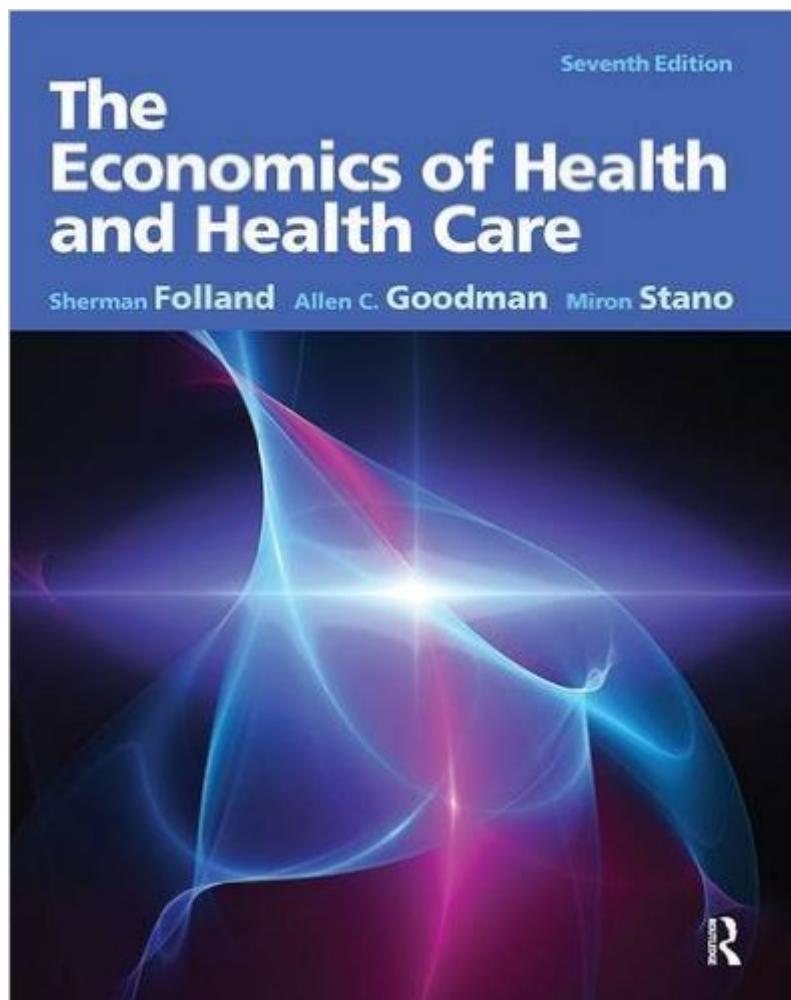


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# The Economics Of Health And Health Care



## **Synopsis**

For courses in Health Economics, U.S. Health Policy/Systems, or Public Health, taken by health services students or practitioners, the text makes economic concepts the backbone of its health care coverage. Folland, Goodman and Stano's book is the bestselling Health Care Economics text that teaches through core economic themes, rather than concepts unique to the health care economy. This edition contains revised and updated data tables, where applicable. The advent of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) in 2010 has also led to changes in many chapters, most notably in the organization and focus of Chapter 16.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 624 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 7 edition (February 29, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0132773694

ISBN-13: 978-0132773690

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 1.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #44,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Administration & Policy > Medicaid & Medicare #6 in Books > Medical Books > Administration & Medicine Economics > Medicaid & Medicare #18 in Books > Business & Money > Insurance > Health

## **Customer Reviews**

The book covers quite a bit of ground in health economics. The chapters mix theory and reporting of recent empirical studies. Many important concepts and details are covered. As an introduction to health economics, used for example for an MHA or MBA course, it is just too difficult for most students. Unless the student has just had a micro course they will struggle. Even so, some new charts and concepts not typically in an intro micro course will prove difficult. Some concepts, particularly graphs, are poorly explained. Perhaps the worst part is that beyond the first few chapters the homework becomes almost impossible for students to do on the basis of the material provided in the text content. Some exam questions in the testbank just have wrong or impossible to find answers. For example, the text mentions one noteworthy study by two economists but does not give precise results data. One of the test questions asks about the precise results data. After poring over

the chapter in vain for the answer, a student finally mentioned that he was able to find the data --- in the original journal article available through Pubmed. Do the professors expect students to find answers by looking up and reading all articles mentioned, referenced, or summarized? Absurd and poor quality control. A student could waste an hour searching in vain the text for that answer. I do not recommend professors using this book. Use Santerre et al. Use the new Bhattacharya book. Etc.

We're using this book for an upper-div Economics course, and I felt the text was a bit too high-level (as someone else mentioned) for use in an Econ course, in the sense that it's light on mathematical application and heavier on verbosity. The book seems to try to appeal to both those studying policy, while at the same time trying to appeal to those studying Economics, and I don't personally like the style. The book does assume a little basic familiarity with economists' tools and shows models, but for the most part I felt that it was just much too high-level and verbose and targeted more toward those studying the "policyer"-side of things. The result is that as someone studying Economics, I find myself a little put off by the super brief treatment of applying models and the paragraphs upon paragraphs of text. On the other side, I could see how those without much/any knowledge of economics could become confused, although I think they do a decent job of covering the basics concisely from the ground up without weighing down the text too much. I will say that it does discuss relevant topics, and I've learned a lot of things I never knew, and am able to think about the economic side of health care in ways I never did before. I think the book could be great under the right circumstances. But chances are if you're using this for an upper-division Economics course, the problems you will solve for homework and on exams will likely cover the topics in a more advanced fashion, and the book doesn't provide enough mathematical examples and tools for that. So pray your professor distributes slides or lecture notes....mine doesn't.

I like this book a lot. The layout and table of contents is very intuitive to me. It was recommended that I use this book to study for my field qualifying exam for health policy and I'm glad I got it. I actually understand this book a lot better than my original health econ book by Phelps which was just a whole bunch of reading but no real econ concepts.

This book is written at a very high level and requires extensive knowledge of economics to understand. Make sure if your professor is using this they are thorough or you will get lost.

Chapters are each about 20 pages long. Well explained, just enough detail. Not overly simplified nor

overly complicated. Chapter summaries helpful; and questions for deeper exploration into topics if desired.

It was easier to gather the concepts by reading original peer-reviewed articles than trying to get it from this textbook. The style is confusing and the graphs are not well explained. One might find it palatable if one has a background in economics but for those to whom the subject is new, this textbook definitely not a good starting point. And chapter 3 is a joke: its title "statistical tools for health economics" promises an explanation of econometric statistics but instead delivers a shallow introduction to basic statistical concepts. If you have taken statistics before, you will find the chapter poor. I wonder how I would have found the rest, had I taken economics before.

The book is very advanced for a non economics major. I am totally lost but the explanations seem to be adequate.

This book is very drawn-out and dry. If you have even a DECENT teacher, you shouldn't really need this book (although I'm sure it's required). My teacher was interested in the material and eager to teach, so I learned the material without opening the book the entire semester. I only looked at it for some of the charts he discussed in class. I have never taken an economics course before and even though I was interested in the material, I couldn't bring myself to read this awful book. That being said, if you love extremely dry reading material, this is definitely the book for you.

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