

The United States Health Systems PLA

Lower Level, Non-Liberal, 4 credits

The United States Health Systems is considered to be lower level knowledge that is non-liberal. It represents foundational skills and concepts that an entry level human service worker has acquired. The United States Health Systems is more often about how we do things (i.e., non-liberal) and not necessarily why we do things (i.e., liberal). At Empire State College and community colleges, the course in The United States Health Systems is offered at the lower level.

The questions below can only be utilized for The United States Health Systems at the lower level, not advanced level. If you are requesting advanced level credit for The United States Health Systems, you need to demonstrate that your knowledge, skills, and application goes beyond what is described below. Remember you are being evaluated on your knowledge and skills, not about your years of experience.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of The United States Health Systems. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as The United States Health Systems, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Lower Level and Non-Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is not a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to

We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith The United States Health Systems PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: The United States Health Systems

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Lower level, Non-Liberal

1. Briefly describe your experiences working within the healthcare field.
2. Detail your personal sources of learning regarding US Health Systems. Include the names/ sponsorship of seminars in which you have participated, journals that you read, research that you have completed, etc.

Make sure to answer the following questions below. It is not expected that you answer these in great detail. Please try to copy and respond underneath each of the questions. If you utilize references, please make to sure cite appropriately.

3. Some people affirm that good health is in many ways a choice. Health consumers are becoming increasingly aware of factors that can impact their health. It has been said that 20% of the people use 80% of our health care dollars. If good health is in many ways a "choice", should health consumers who maintain positive health habits pay less and have better access to health care services when they need them than people who choose to not maintain positive health habits? Defend your position.

4. How does managed care benefit and harm the future of health care in this country? As a health care consumer, how can each person protect himself or herself from these new trends in health care while maintaining quality of care at reasonable costs? Defend your position.

5. For-profit hospitals are common in many parts of this country. In other areas they are prohibited by legislation, and all hospitals exist on a not-for profit basis. New York State legislation prohibits for-profit hospitals. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining this legislation. Based on what you have learned, would you recommend that New York State maintain its not-for-profit hospital status? Defend your position.

6. Universal health insurance such as is available in England or Canada would assist with the cost of health care for all of our citizens, but attempts to pass legislation which would result in universal health insurance have not passed in Congress. Without universal health insurance, how can we as a society help these individuals obtain the health care which they need? Defend your position.

7. Health care costs continue to escalate out of control. Available care is unequally distributed to our country's citizens. Rural areas often lack available care; urban areas

sometimes have too many physicians, especially as Managed Care utilization increases. If the health care system as we know it today is "broken", what would some solutions be? Defend your position.

8. During a 1999 press conference, a representative of HANYS (Health Care Association of New York State), "used the analogy of the best selling book, 'The Perfect Storm', to explain the three converging socioeconomic 'storms' which are threatening to sink the health care field. The three storms are the BBA (Balanced Budget Amendment) cuts, ... the lack of action... over the HCRA (Health Care Reform Act), and the dynamics of a marketplace in which insurers frequently refuse to pay their bills." (Source: HANYS) Years have now passed since this statement was made. What are the factors that are creating a perfect storm of today's current health care dilemmas--or haven't the factors changed significantly since 1999? Defend your position.

9. Based on your knowledge of health care, please share your thoughts about where health care is headed. What factors can redirect the course of healthcare? What will health care "look like" in 10 years.... 50 years 100 years.

10. Using action verbs, thoroughly describe at least ten skills and abilities that you have developed from your experience with US Health Care.