

# HCM 340 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

## Overview

The 2000 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report *To Err is Human* was a call to arms for the U.S. healthcare delivery system. It emphasized the need to explore the processes, structure, and outcomes related to the quality of care provided to individuals in our society. For your final project, you will research a gap in access to quality, equity, or efficiency of care (including existing initiatives in place to address the gap and economic and regulatory factors that are currently in place to address the gap).

Access to care includes access to health insurance coverage, access to services and providers, and timeliness of the care received. All three of these components impact quality of care. Access can also include affordability. The quality of the care people receive in the healthcare system should not vary based upon their socioeconomic status.

For your final project, you will select a healthcare delivery process gap and the population affected from the list below. Then, you will develop a healthcare delivery systems research paper.

- Option One: A gap in **quality** related to **care coordination** for **individuals with chronic illnesses**
- Option Two: A gap in **equity** related to **mental health access** for **veterans**
- Option Three: A gap in **efficiency** related to **rising cost of pharmaceuticals** for **the aging population**

This assessment addresses the following course outcomes:

- Draw connections between current healthcare delivery systems and the context in which they were developed
- Describe the impact of economic and regulatory drivers on healthcare delivery systems
- Identify major gaps in access to healthcare for determining areas of opportunity for improved access to quality healthcare
- Explain initiatives targeted at maintaining or improving the health status of specific populations

## Prompt

After choosing the topic for your course project from the options provided in the overview, you will work to develop your **healthcare delivery systems research paper**. Within the final research project you will address your chosen gap in access, including existing initiatives in place to address the gap, and economic and regulatory factors that are currently in place to address the gap.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

I. **Introduction**

- A. Describe a specific **gap** in the delivery of healthcare. Include the specific population affected by the gap.
- B. Briefly describe the **history** of this gap in access to healthcare. Has this been an issue historically, or is it a modern issue?
- C. Explain the impact that the **socioeconomic background** of the population has on their access to healthcare.
- D. Describe how the healthcare delivered to the population is **affected** by the gap in access.
- E. Predict any potential **implications** if this gap in access is not addressed.

II. **Existing Initiatives**

- A. Explain an existing healthcare initiative that was put in place to **address** this **gap** in access.
- B. Explain the specific **goals** of the existing initiative in place to address this gap in access.
- C. Describe the circumstances around the **development** of the existing initiative. Consider when it was developed and what factors were considered.
- D. Describe the **resources** required to fund the existing initiative.
- E. Explain why the existing initiative is not meeting its intended purpose and now requires **improvement**.

III. **Regulation**

- A. Explain a **current regulation** regarding the existing initiative that has been identified and the context in which it was developed. Why is this regulation important?
- B. Describe the **regulatory level** that the existing initiative is being addressed at. Consider the potential for multiple levels of regulation.

IV. **Conclusion:** Explain the effectiveness of the existing initiative and associated regulations in addressing this gap in the delivery of healthcare to the target population. Does the initiative align with initiative in place to support other gaps? Are there conflicting interests to be aware of?

## Milestones

Milestone One: Topic Selection

In **Module Three**, you will submit a 2- to 3-page paper explaining why the topic you chose is a gap in healthcare and analyze the specific population impacted by the issue. **This assignment will be graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: Existing Initiatives

In **Module Five**, you will submit a 2- to 3-page paper in which you will identify and analyze an initiative that addresses the gap you chose as the topic for your final project. **This assignment will be graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Final Submission: Healthcare Delivery Systems Research Paper

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your final project. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final project. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This submission will be graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

## Final Project Rubric

**Guidelines for Submission:** Your healthcare delivery systems research paper should be 5 to 8 pages. It should be double-spaced, include one-inch margins, use 12-point Times New Roman font, and adhere to the latest edition of APA formatting.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
<b>Introduction: Gap</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates keen insight into the healthcare delivery processes	Describes a specific gap in the delivery of healthcare, including the specific population affected by the gap	Describes a specific gap in the delivery of healthcare, including the specific population affected by the gap, but the description is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not describe a specific gap in the delivery of healthcare to a specific population	7.9
<b>Introduction: History</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the premise of the gap	Briefly describes the history of this gap in access to healthcare	Describes the history of this gap in access to healthcare, but description is verbose or contains inaccuracies	Does not describe the history of this gap in access to healthcare	7.9
<b>Introduction: Socioeconomic Background</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and the explanation demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the relationship between socioeconomic status and access to healthcare	Explains the impact socioeconomic background has on a population’s access to healthcare	Explains the impact socioeconomic background has on a population’s access to healthcare, but explanation is cursory or illogical	Does not explain the impact socioeconomic background has on a population’s access to healthcare	7.9
<b>Introduction: Affect</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the healthcare delivery processes as they relate to consumer access	Describes how the healthcare delivered to the population is affected by the gap in access	Describes how the healthcare delivered to the population is affected by the gap in access, but description cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not describe how the healthcare delivered to the population is affected by the gap in access	7.9

<b>Introduction: Implications</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and predictions demonstrate a sophisticated awareness of the interrelationship between healthcare access and other variables	Predicts any potential implications if this gap in access is not addressed	Predicts any potential implications if this gap in access is not addressed, but predictions are unrealistic or unrelated	Does not predict any potential implications if this gap in access is not addressed	7.9
<b>Existing Initiatives: Address Gap</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates keen insight into the needs for addressing the gap	Explains an existing healthcare initiative that was put in place to address this gap in access	Explains an existing healthcare initiative that was put in place to address this gap in access, but explanation is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain an existing healthcare initiative that was put in place to address this gap in access	7.9
<b>Existing Initiatives: Goals</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the purpose of the existing initiative	Explains the specific goals of the existing initiative in place to address this gap in access	Explains the specific goals of the existing initiative in place to address this gap in access, but explanation is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain the specific goals of the existing initiative in place to address this gap in access	7.9
<b>Existing Initiatives: Development</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the elements involved in the development of initiatives	Describes the circumstances around the development of the existing initiative	Describes the circumstances around the development of the existing initiative, but description is unclear or incomplete	Does not describe the circumstances around the development of the existing initiative	7.9
<b>Existing Initiatives: Resources</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates a complex grasp of the funding requirements of healthcare delivery initiatives	Describes the resources required to fund the existing initiative	Describes the resources required to fund the existing initiative, but description is illogical or contains inaccuracies	Does not describe the resources required to fund the existing initiative	7.9
<b>Existing Initiatives: Improvement</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates keen insight into the needs of the initiative and its shortcomings	Explains why the existing initiative is not meeting its intended purpose and now requires improvement	Explains why the existing initiative is not meeting its intended purpose and now requires improvement, but explanation is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain why the existing initiative is not meeting its intended purpose and now requires improvement	7.9

<b>Regulation: Current Regulation</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of how context influences the development of regulations	Explains a current regulation regarding the existing initiatives that have been identified and the context in which it was developed	Explains a current regulation regarding the existing initiatives that have been identified and the context in which it was developed, but explanation is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not explain a current regulation regarding the existing initiatives that have been identified and the context in which it was developed	7.9
<b>Regulation: Regulatory Level</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates a nuanced understanding of regulatory control levels	Describes the regulatory level at which the existing initiatives are being addressed	Describes the regulatory level at which the existing initiatives are being addressed, but description is cursory or unrelated	Does not describe the regulatory level at which that the existing initiatives are being addressed	7.9
<b>Conclusion</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a complex grasp of the relationship between individual initiatives and the healthcare system	Explains the effectiveness of the existing initiative and associated regulations in addressing this gap in the delivery of healthcare to the target population	Explains the effectiveness of the existing initiative and associated regulations in addressing this gap in the delivery of healthcare to the target population, but explanation is cursory or unrelated to the overall healthcare system	Does not explain the role of this gap in the delivery of healthcare to the population or the initiative in place to address this gap	2.6
<b>Articulation of Response</b>	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy to read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	2.6
<b>Total</b>					<b>100%</b>