



Course Prefix/Number/Title:

HRM200-Benefits Administration
Fall2025

Number of Credits:

3

Course Description:

This course covers basic knowledge about the various types of benefits that are typically offered by employers for their employees, government mandated benefits, and the legal environment surrounding employee benefits.

Pre-/Co-requisites:

None

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Distinguish between legally-required (government mandated) and discretionary benefits.
2. Identify the considerations influencing the design and implementation of a benefit program.
3. Describe how employee perceptions of justice or fairness are important to understanding pay and benefits practices, and influence employee attitudes.
4. Understand how employer-sponsored retirement plans are defined.
5. Explain the difference between employer sponsored disability and life insurance plans, and workers' compensation.
6. Identify the primary objectives and examples of employee benefits, including income protection, paid time Identify regulatory reporting requirements (ACA).
7. Describe the company benefits planning process and its connection to a business's strategic plan.
8. Examine why employers offer employee benefits.
9. Research the laws that regulate employee benefits.
10. Identify benefit brokers as an external provider.
11. Compare traditional benefit plans to flexible benefit plans.
12. Describe the different methods used to calculate and manage the cost of employee benefits.
13. Explain the importance of an employee benefit package that supports strategic goals, acknowledges external and internal influences and is compliant with the legal requirements.

Instructor:

Deidre Pugh, Social Sciences & Human Resources Assistant Professor

Office:

Online: Please don't hesitate to email, call, or text with questions/concerns or to set up an appointment.

On-Campus (DCB): Thatcher Hall, Room 207

Office Hours:

Online: By appointment

On-Campus (DCB): Wednesdays (9:30am-5:00pm), Thursdays (10:30am-3:30pm)

Phone:

Cell: 701-840-8975

Email:

Deidre.Pugh@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

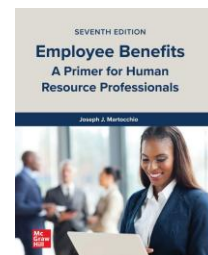
Online

Textbook(s):**Textbook IS REQUIRED**

Employee Benefits: A Primer for Human Resource Professionals
7th Edition

Author: Joseph J. Martocchio

ISBN: 9781265260316

**Course Requirements:**

Distance learning is self-directed learning! It requires a high level of responsibility, dedication, and self-discipline on the part of the student. In this course, you are responsible for your own work, your own progress, and your own grade.

* Attendance is determined by your keeping up-to-date with discussion threads and assignments. You are required to participate in threaded discussions and to turn in assigned work when due. You are also required to contact me, in advance, if you know you will be "missing" an assignment so we can make arrangements to makeup the work.

DISAPPEARING: No communication from you for several weeks, or not completing your work, for whatever reason means I may initiate an administrative withdrawal. You can contact me via voice mail, text, email or by contacting the DCB Distance Education Department.

Discussions: For each chapter, you will have a discussion question. You need to submit 2 responses per discussion, on **SEPARATE DAYS**, with at least one of the responses to another student's comments.

It is important to stay current with your discussion submissions. All the discussions for a section must be completed by the last day of the chapter and time specified. There will be no points awarded for the discussions after the due date and time.

Participation: Participating in discussions is an important means of achieving the course's objectives. Some of the topics we cover are controversial and/or sensitive, *I would*

like each of you to keep an open mind and give other students the same courtesy that you expect to be given! Respect always goes a long way. If you choose to attack another student in my course, there will be consequences.

Purpose: The purpose of the assigned threaded discussion questions is to have you participate in class discussions in much the same way as would occur in the classroom.

Criteria: Respond twice during the chapter, on SEPARATE DAYS within each topic, to the question in order to receive full credit. One of your responses, within each topic, must be to another student's post. The purpose of having you respond on different days is so you "attend" class throughout the week! If you're only responding at the beginning of the week and not logging into the course again during that chapter, you may miss out on very educational discussions.

Grading: **Superficial reflections are not acceptable!** Although it is important to thoroughly explain the ideas and concepts you are learning, merely paraphrasing or restating the concepts, definitions, or ideas is not acceptable. You should try to become more reflective and strive to improve the quality of your thought and writing as the course progresses. Remember, your discussions are your opportunity to demonstrate your learning in this course!

Online Participation – 10 points possible for each separate discussion topic

Quizzes: A quiz will be completed for each chapter. The questions will come from the Chapter readings and will consist of true/false and multiple choice questions. Each will be worth 10 points.

Case Project Assignments: There will be 4 "Case Project" assignments that will ask you to consider and discuss real life employee benefits scenarios. Each will be worth 45 points.

Bonus Points: You will have periodic opportunities to earn bonus points throughout the course by finding supplemental information on what we are discussing at the time.

Final Project: There will be a Final Project at the end of this course. This project will be a PowerPoint presentation. You will have your entire "finals week" to work on this project. It will be worth 100 points.

Course Outline:

Week 1

Monday, August 25th-Sunday, August 31st

Week 2

Monday, September 1st-Sunday, September 7th

Week 3

Monday, September 8th-Sunday, September 14th

Week 4

Monday, September 15th-Sunday, September 21st

CASE PROJECT 1

Week 5

Monday, September 22nd-Sunday, September 28th

Week 6

Monday, September 29th-Sunday, October 5th

Week 7

Monday, October 6th-Sunday, October 12th

Week 8

Monday, October 13th-Sunday, October 19th

CASE PROJECT 2

Week 9

Monday, October 20th-Sunday, October 26th

Week 10

Monday, October 27th-Sunday, November 2nd

Week 11

Monday, November 3rd-Sunday, November 9th

Week 12

Monday, November 10th-Sunday, November 16th

CASE PROJECT 3

Week 13

Monday, November 17th -Sunday, November 23rd

Week 14

Monday, November 24th-Sunday, November 30th

Week 15

Monday, December 1st-Sunday, December 7th

Week 16

Monday, December 8th-Sunday, December 14th

CASE PROJECT 4

FINALS WEEK

Final Project

Monday, December 15th-Friday, December 19th

General Education Competency/Learning Outcome(s) OR CTE Competency/Department Learning Outcome(s):

The student learning competencies of career and technical education degree programs are as follows:

- Employ industry-specific skills in preparation for workplace readiness
- Combine general education and vocational skills curriculum

Relationship to Campus Focus:

Campus Focus: Nature, Technology, and Beyond

This course will emphasize communication and technology to enhance “human” nature in the work environment.

Classroom Policies:

Regular participation is mandatory.

- All assignments can be completed on any computer with Internet access.

- Students need to set up or select an environment conducive for getting work done/testing (e.g. distraction free area at home, a computer lab at a library, etc.)
- Students can complete their weekly work at any time between the given dates and times.
- Classroom weeks will run from Monday at 12:00 a.m. to Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
- A discussion is only a discussion if everyone is participating together. Therefore, no points will be given for forum posts once the week is over.
- Grades are based on total points earned.

Grading: 90+A; 80-89B; 70-79C, 60-69D, 59 and below F.

Student Email Policy:

Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student's campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the Campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

Academic Integrity:

According to the DCB Student Handbook, students are responsible for submitting their own work. Students who cooperate on oral or written examinations or work without authorization share the responsibility for violation of academic principles, and the students are subject to disciplinary action even when one of the students is not enrolled in the course where the violation occurred. The Code detailed in the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty section of the Student Handbook will serve as the guideline for cases where cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties have occurred.

Disabilities or Special Needs:

Students with disabilities or special needs (academic or otherwise) are encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Support Services.

Title IX:

Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the College as a whole. Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if a student tells a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. Students wishing to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility can find a list of resources on the DCB Title IX webpage.

AI Student Policy:

Unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus, or in individual instructions for course assignments, or in the absence of the express consent of the course instructor, **students are not allowed to utilize generative AI to help produce any of their academic work.** Any violation of this policy will be considered an act of academic dishonesty as outlined within the Dakota College Code of Student Life.

*If a student is suspected of using AI on ANY assignment, including discussions, they will receive “0 points” on that assignment. If there is a second incident, the student will be reported and potentially dropped from the course!

RESPONSIBILITIES

Students	• Responsible to follow the syllabus and assignment instructions regarding use of generative AI for all academic work. • Obtain permission of the instructor prior to the use of generative AI that is outside of the syllabus or assignment instructions. Provide appropriate rationale for how the use of generative AI will enhance the learning experience for the assignment. • In instances where generative AI is permissible, appropriately cite the generative AI program used and indicate where in the assignment it was used, in a brief submission statement.
Faculty	• Determine if the use of generative AI could enhance student learning in any assignment or project. • Clearly indicate in all course syllabi if generative AI is allowable for any academic work. • If allowable, give specific parameters for how and when generative AI may be used. • If a violation of generative AI for the individual course/syllabus is suspected, discuss the concern with the student. If violation is still suspected, inform the appropriate semester coordinator/program director.