COURSE DESCRIPTION
What will the future of nursing look like? Will the quality of patient care improve along with the quality of nurses’ jobs? Or will emerging technologies and a changing health care environment degrade the nursing profession and undermine patient outcomes? This course will survey key health care trends and help nurses understand how they can shape a future in which they will have the time, resources, professional autonomy, and safe workplaces they need to provide the care their patients need.

The first part of the course will analyze how nurses are affected by a broader crisis in care work. The second part will focus on technological change in health care, the factors driving it, and its impact on nurses and patients. The final section will explore how Medicare for All and other crucial reforms would empower nurses to reclaim the future of their profession and ensure that care work is truly valued and given the respect it deserves.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Articulate how gender stereotypes shape the way care work is perceived, defined, and valued in our economy, and how this in turn affects the American healthcare system.
2. Describe recent technological trends in health care, and explain why technologies ostensibly introduced to complement nurses’ skills, ease workloads, and improve patient outcomes often have the opposite effect.
3. Describe how a Medicare for All (single-payer) system works and identify other concrete measures nurses can take to improve job quality and quality of care in their workplaces.
4. Explain how nurses can work with patients and their communities to address the crisis of care, shape technological change, and achieve health justice in America.