

Peter I. Buerhaus



Dr. Peter Buerhaus is the Valere Potter Professor of Nursing and Senior Associate Dean for Research at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

Dr. Buerhaus has experience working in academic health center administration and health policy. Over a six year period in the 1980s he was assistant to the chief executive officer of the University of Michigan Medical Center's seven teaching hospitals, and assistant to the Vice Provost for Medical Affairs, the chief administrator of the medical center. Dr. Buerhaus was responsible for various projects involving medical center and university administration, including strategic planning, information technology, health policy analysis, and government relations.

Professor Buerhaus has published nearly 50 peer-reviewed articles, numerous book chapters, and various papers on topics concerned with the nurse labor market and changes in the health care system. He has editorial responsibilities with many leading health services research and nursing journals, and maintains an active research program involving studies that analyze: trends in employment and earnings of nursing personnel; effects of managed care on the nurse labor market; implications of the rapidly aging RN workforce; changes in nurse staffing and the impact on quality of patient care; nurses' and other providers' opinion of how changes in the health care system are affecting patients; and, forces behind the slow growth in the number of minorities in the nursing profession.

Dr. Buerhaus earned his baccalaureate degree in nursing from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota, and began his career as a staff nurse in a southeastern Ohio community hospital. After obtaining a master's degree in nursing health services administration at The University of Michigan, he completed doctoral education at Wayne State University in Detroit where he concentrated his studies on the economics of health care and nursing. In 1990, Dr. Buerhaus joined the faculty of the College of Nursing at the University of Iowa and developed and taught courses on public policy making and the economics of health care and nursing. Prior to beginning his current appointment at Vanderbilt in 2000, Dr. Buerhaus was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation faculty fellow in health care finance at The Johns Hopkins University (1991-1992), director of the Harvard Nursing Research Institute and its post-doctoral program in nursing health services research (1993-1990), and assistant professor of health policy and management at Harvard School of Public Health (1992-2000). Dr. Buerhaus was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 1994. Currently, he serves as a member of the National Institutes of Health National Advisory Council for Nursing Research, and is a Board of Director of Sigma Theta Tau International.