



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics (DA 101)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics (DA 101) course?

Are you facing an increasing need for data analytics skills in your current role? Or are you hoping to advance your career through the addition of an in-demand skill set? This 31-hour, introductory online course can provide you with foundational skills and knowledge in health care data analytics that will equip you to contribute more effectively to local data analytics and performance improvement efforts. The convenient online format allows you to complete weekly assignments on your own schedule. There are no pre-requisites, however basic skills in Microsoft Excel are highly recommended.

Who developed this course?

This course was developed in conjunction with Bellevue College with funding from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). It was created in response to the overwhelming demand by employees at the VHA for health care data analytics training.

What content is covered in the course?

The subject areas include:

- Introduction to Quality Improvement and Data Analytics
- Health Care Data as an Organizational Asset
- Working with Data
- Data Analytics Tools and Techniques
- Using Data to Solve Problems
- Using Data to Tell the Story

Who should enroll in this course?

If you are new to a role in analytics, using analytics in your work, or simply interested in learning more about analytics, this course is for you! The course is designed at an introductory level and is available to VA or DOD employees, in any job role, with a va.gov or .mil email address. No formal prerequisites are required, but basic **Microsoft Excel** skills are ***strongly recommended***.

The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



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Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics (DA 101) Frequently Asked Questions Continued

What will I receive upon completion?

- The course requires completion of at least 80% of the material in order to receive credit. Participants also need to achieve a grade of at least 80% on assessment questions. Students who successfully complete all requirements of the course will receive a VA-issued certificate of completion.
- We encourage you to share your certificate of completion with your supervisor and include it in your Individual Development Plan (IDP).
- Students who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion and any approved relevant accreditations.

Is this course accredited?

Accreditation of 31 hours is offered for the following: Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME); Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education-Non-Physician (ACCME-NP); Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE); American Psychological Association (APA); American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC); Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB); National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC); and New York State Education Department Social Work (NYSED SW). Also approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit (ABPM Clinical Informatics Diplomates may request credit towards ABPM MOC Part 2A (LLSA) requirements). This course can also be used towards CA-HIMS and CPHIMS recertification.

How do I register?

1. There are three to four sessions offered per year. Please register for only one session.
2. Register [HERE](#). If you already have an account on the VHA Health Informatics Online Classroom you will use the same Username and Password. If you do not have an account you can create one using your **.va** or **.mil** email address.
3. QR Code for registration ease:



What is the time commitment?

The course is approximately 31 hours in total, and is comprised of six modules in addition to a required case study.

Do I need supervisory approval?

Supervisory approval is not required for this course. However, if you choose to participate during your normal work hours, then supervisory approval is necessary.

What is the course format?

This course is 100% online, with convenient 24/7 access that allows you to complete the weekly assignments on your own schedule. You can access all course materials through the VHA Health Informatics Online Classroom provided through Moodle (a learning management system) using any PC or mobile device with Internet access. The course website can be accessed at <https://vatraining.remote-learner.net/>

How do I access the course?

The course is available via the internet. You do not need to be connected through the VA network to complete this course. <https://vatraining.remote-learner.net/>

What are the course requirements?

The course requires

- Commitment to complete the 31 hour course within the scheduled timeframe.
- Completion of at least 80% of the material in order to receive credit.
- Achieve an average score of 80% or higher on assessment questions.
- Complete assigned learning activities and case study.
- Participate in online discussion forums, complete a post-test and course evaluation.

Students who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion and any approved relevant accreditations.

How is this program different from the Healthcare Analytics Certificate Program (HACP) offered by Nebraska Methodist College?

The VA [Healthcare Analytics Certificate Program](#) (HACP) offered by Nebraska Methodist College is a more advanced data analytics course. It is a non-credited certificate program consisting of a series of *four* 10-week, online courses available to VA employees. Students in the program learn to perform complex analyses, translate information into knowledge; coach and mentor others in the use of data, and lead teams in identifying relevant data to support systems improvement. The cost *per course* is listed on the site, in addition to the cost of textbooks.

The Introduction to Data Analytics (DA 101) course is an asynchronous online course. This introductory analytics course provides participants with foundational knowledge of the role and value of data analytics in healthcare. The DA 101 course was designed to provide participants with a basic understanding of health care data analytics and can be considered complementary with the HACP as a suggested pre-requisite. The DA 101 course is available to VA and DOD employees at no cost.

There is some content overlap with the HACP (e.g., statistical concepts, data mining), however, the HACP is a more rigorous curriculum with greater time commitment. If you have already completed the certificate program, the DA 101 course could serve as a refresher.

Is there a required textbook?

Trevor L. Strome (2013). *Healthcare Analytics for Quality and Performance Improvement*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

The textbook chapters are available for download at no cost to students via **TMS 2.0** through **Skillsoft Books** or available for purchase online. Instructions on how to download the textbook chapters are included in the course.

Do I need any special software to complete this course?

Special software *is not* required other than access to the Internet and Microsoft Excel. Technical support is provided as needed.

Are there complementary courses that I can take to prepare for this course?

- [Stanford University OLI Free Statistics Course](#)
- [Reporting and Filed Based Analytics Courses \(RAFT\)](#)
- [VHA Support Service Center \(VSSC\)](#)
- **Excel Training:** John Sistrunk has created over 20 videos of Excel tips and tricks (as well as other applications). They are available on the [EES Website](#), just type “Sistrunk” in the search window.
- Other online courses through Coursera, Khan Academy, etc...
- Pyramid Analytics
- VA Learning University Site ([VALU](#)) with references to Skillsoft Books

Are there any advanced courses that I can take once I have completed this course?

- Healthcare Analytics Certificate Program (HACP) offered by Nebraska Methodist College
- Structured Query Language (SQL) courses
- Advanced Microsoft Excel Courses
- Carnegie-Mellon University (Open Learning Initiative): Statistics courses

How will the course be evaluated?

There are few ways that the course will be evaluated:

- Immediately after each Module and the Case Study you will have the opportunity to complete an optional evaluation.
- There is a mandatory evaluation in TMS 2.0 that students must complete prior to obtaining their Certificate of Completion.

Where can I get more information?

Questions can be addressed to the Workforce Development Team at VHAhi2CertHelp@va.gov.

Future course dates and other information are available on the [VHA Online Classroom site](#).

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