



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics course?

Are you facing an increasing need for data analytics skills in your current role? Are you hoping to advance your career by adding an in-demand skill set? This 31-hour, introductory level 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 by data analytics subject matter experts and VA health informatics staff in conjunction with Bellevue College with funding from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). It was developed 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. As mentioned, there are 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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What will I receive upon completion?

- Students who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion and any approved relevant accreditations. The course requires completion of at least 80% of the materials and the Case Study in order to receive general education credit.
- General education credit is offered to all that complete the course via a VA-issued Certificate of Completion.
- In addition, an accredited certificate 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); and New York State Education Department Social Work (NYSED SW). Also approved for AMA PRA Category 2 Credit (ABPM Clinical Informatics Diplomates may request credit towards ABPM MOC Part 2A (LLSA) requirements).
- We encourage you to share your certificate of completion with your supervisor and include it in your Individual Development Plan (IDP).

How do I register?

- Upcoming sessions are listed on the Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics online registration page.
- Register Here: <http://vatraining.remote-learner.net/>. If you already have an account on the VHA Health Informatics Online Classroom you will use the same User Name and Password. If you do not have an account you can create one using your va.gov or .mil email address.
- QR code for Registration available:



What is the time commitment?

The 8 week course is approximately **31 hours** in total, with approximately one additional week at the end of the course to complete final module and course project.

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 allowing you to complete the weekly assignments on your own schedule. The course website can be accessed at <http://vatraining.remote-learner.net>. Course work is primarily asynchronous (independent, self-paced) and not instructor-led. Periodic synchronous (live, real time) instructor-led webinars may be included, and will be recorded for those who cannot attend. The course is a mix of video lectures, online discussion forums, independent hands-on learning activities and an online textbook. Course content includes slide decks, audio transcripts, readings, quizzes, a glossary, questionnaires and online discussion forums. An extensive list of optional resources is also available.

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. There are no fees, no tuition costs and no prerequisites. Link to course site: <http://vatraining.remote-learner.net>

What are the course requirements?

The course requires

- Commitment to complete the 31 hour course within the scheduled timeframe.
- Complete assigned learning activities and projects on schedule.
- Completion of at least 80% of the material in order to receive general education credit.
- Completion of 100% of content to receive professional accreditation.
- Achieve an average score of 80% or higher on assessment questions.
- Participate in online discussion forums, complete a post-test and course evaluation.

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 and charges tuition. 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, this Data Analytics course could serve as a refresher.

This Introduction to Data Analytics course is a single online course over approximately 8 weeks. It provides participants with foundational knowledge of the role and value of data analytics in healthcare and was designed to provide a basic understanding of health care data analytics. It can be considered complementary with the HACP as a suggested pre-requisite. This course is available to VA employees at no cost.

Is there a required textbook?

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

- Available through [SkillSoft Books](#) in TMS at no cost and also is available for purchase online.
- Employees of other Federal Agencies should contact their education department to learn how to access SkillSoft Books.
- For more information and useful tips on using SkillSoft from VA Learning University, click [HERE](#).

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](#)
- [Field Based Analytics Courses](#)
- [VHA Support Service Center \(VSSC\)](#)
- SkillSoft Books via [TMS](#): Data Analytics resources
- Other online courses through Coursera, Khan Academy, etc....
- Pyramid Analytics

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 two ways that the course will be evaluated:

- Students have the opportunity to provide feedback after each of the six modules and the case study
- Upon successful completion of the course students must complete a course evaluation in order to receive the Certificate of Completion and any relevant accreditations.

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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