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? Or are you hoping to advance your career through the addition of an in-demand skill set? This 40-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. No formal prerequisites are required, but basic Microsoft Excel skills are strongly recommended. Each session is limited to 600 students. Enroll now!

What will I receive upon completion?

- General education credit will be offered.
  - The course requires completion of at least 80% of the material in order to receive general education credit. Students who successfully complete the course will receive a VA-issued certificate of completion.
- Course accreditation is pending for the following accreditations: ACCME, ACPE, ACPE-T, ANCC and APA.
- 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?

1. The course is offered twice per year. Please only register for one session.
   Fall 2016: October 3 – December 4, 2016
   Spring 2017: February 6 – April 9, 2017
2. 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 or .mil email address.
3. QR code for Registration:

What is the time commitment?

The 8 week course is approximately 40 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 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 http://vatraining.remote-learner.net.

Course work is primarily asynchronous (independent, self-paced) and is not instructor-led. Periodic synchronous (live, real time activity) instructor-led webinars may be included, and will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Course content includes a mix of video lectures and online discussion, numerous hands-on learning activities that individuals complete independently, and an online textbook (available through books 24/7). Through the online classroom you'll have access to voiceover PowerPoint lectures,

Slide decks, audio transcripts, readings, quizzes, a glossary, questionnaires and online discussion forums. An extensive list of optional resources is also available in each section.

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. http://vatraining.remote-learner.net

What are the course requirements?

The course requires

- Commitment to complete the 40 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.

Students who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion and any approved relevant accreditations. ACCME, ACPE, ACPE-T, ANCC and APA accreditations are under review and pending. We hope they will be approved prior to the course start date.

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 $275 plus the cost of textbooks.

The Introduction to Data Analytics course is a single 8-week online course. This introductory analytics course provides participants with foundational knowledge of the role and value of data analytics in healthcare. The Data Analytics 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 course is available to VA 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, this Data Analytics 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.

- Available in Books 24x7 in TMS (free for VA employees to view) or available for purchase online.

- Employees of other Federal Agencies should contact their education department to learn how to access Books 24x7

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.

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)](#)
- [VeHU – YouTube courses](#); Search for "VeHU Tube" once you log in
- [Books 24x7](#): 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:

- Immediately after the course you will be asked to complete a course evaluation.
- Between 90-120 days after the course ends, you may be asked to complete a post-course survey

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.](#)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration