

VA Health Informatics Certificate Program (AMIA 10x10) Fact Sheet

What is the VA Health Informatics Certificate Program?

The VA Health Informatics Certificate Program (AMIA 10x10) provides VA staff with a broad survey of the field of health informatics. It is delivered as a Web-based course including recorded lecture presentations supplemented by online learning activities. The course is not specific to any particular subspecialty (e.g., pharmacy, nursing informatics) but is meant to represent the domain of health informatics in a general sense. The certificate program is modeled on the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) 10x10 courses traditionally offered in university settings. VA partnered with AMIA to create this course and enable VA staff to participate at no cost to the individual.

What is the purpose of the VA Health Informatics Certificate Program?

The primary objectives of the VA Health Informatics Certificate Program are to develop a cadre of VA informatics leaders who can accelerate, implement, and support health information technology innovations, and to provide students an opportunity to explore how informatics can be used to improve health care delivery.

What does the ideal candidate look like?

Enrollment is competitive and will be limited to 35 VA staff in a leadership role in health informatics. Leadership can be demonstrated through informal roles, such as project leader or program lead, and is not specific to certain job titles.

Criteria	Description
Leadership Experience	Holds a formal or informal leadership role in health informatics at the field facility, VISN, or national level.
Professional Development	Expresses the desire to learn and increase his or her knowledge and skills in health informatics.
Commitment	Can commit to completing the entire rigorous six-month program.
Course Level	Functions on a graduate-school level based on either history of formal education or life and work experience.
Perspective	Is selected from a variety of disciplines, program areas, and geographic locations.

What credentials will students obtain upon completion?

Students who successfully complete all requirements of the course will receive a VA-issued AMIA 10x10 certificate of completion. Depending on the student's specialty, continuing education credits may be applied to some or all of the lectures in TMS.

How do I enroll in a class?

1. The course currently offered twice per year. Enrollment applications will be accepted approximately three months prior to course start date.
2. Interested candidates must obtain first-level supervisor endorsement and complete the application during the enrollment period as posted on the [VHA Online Classroom site](#).
3. Questions about the application process should be directed to VHAhi2CertHelp@va.gov.
4. Selected candidates will be notified approximately one month prior to course start date.

Do I need Supervisory approval?

This six-month program requires a substantial time commitment from the participants—approximately twelve hours per week. Contingent on external conference approval and availability of funding through the Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA), a one-day in-person session will be held in conjunction with the AMIA Annual Symposium. Students must complete the online portion of the course to be eligible to attend. Students who are unable to attend may be asked to complete an additional assignment. Applicants are expected to discuss time and travel release commitments with their supervisors before submitting an application. Agreements for the amount of release time allowed to complete the course are handled locally.

Supervisors agree to:

1. Release participant for online training sessions (percentage of time is determined locally).
2. Support participant's work on projects.
3. Support participant's release for one In-person meeting, contingent on external conference approval and availability of OIA funding for travel.

What is the course format?

- Distance learning—using a Web-based learning platform (Moodle)
- Up to 41 prerecorded lectures housed in TMS (average one hour each)
- Learning Lab environment (Moodle) for online discussion boards, posting course assignments, readings, etc.
- No prerequisites or cost to the student

The lectures can be viewed at the students' convenience on any computer with Internet access. The presentation narratives can also be downloaded or printed for review. Students will be expected to successfully complete the associated post-test and course evaluation via TMS. The lecture series will be augmented with mandatory and optional readings, discussion boards, and related skill-building activities hosted on an Internet learning management platform (Moodle). The course is designed to encourage interaction and collaboration among participants and faculty, as well as ensure timely completion of all requirements.

What is the content of the certificate program?

The curriculum is based on the knowledge and skills required for the subspecialty of clinical informatics as defined through a two-year national development process initiated by the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Gardener RM, Overhage M, Steen, EB, et al. [Core Content for the Subspecialty of Clinical Informatics](#). J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2009; 16:153-157). The focus is on concepts and principles of the field and training specific to CPRS and data mining/analytics is not included.

Four broad content areas including the Health System, Clinical Decision-making and Care Process Improvement, Health Information Systems, and Leading and Managing Change are presented in eight modules as listed in the following table:

Module	Module Title
1	Fundamentals of Health Informatics
2	Evidence-based Patient Care
3	Clinical Workflow Analysis, Process Redesign, and Quality Improvement
4	Human Factors Engineering
5	Data Standards
6	Clinical Decision Support
7	Information System Lifecycle
8	Leading and Managing Change

What are the course requirements?

1. Complete the entire six-month program.
2. Complete required lectures on TMS, including post-tests and evaluations.
3. Complete assigned learning activities and projects on schedule.
4. Participate in online discussion forums.
5. Attend an In-person meeting at the AMIA symposium, contingent on external conference approval and availability of funding for travel and conference registration by OIA. If funding is not available, a substitute activity will be planned (e.g., a V-Tel meeting).

Students will be required to complete scheduled homework assignments and projects relevant to the general content areas presented. Assignments are broad-ranging, including activities such as participation in discussion boards, conducting workflow analyses, designing evidence-based decision support tools, writing papers, and completing a health informatics project. Students will be encouraged to choose topics and projects that provide real value to VA as an organization. Students will receive guidance and feedback on assignments from faculty moderators.

How are the candidates selected?

Candidates are scored on the basis of the information provided on their application. The essay questions are particularly important, as the goal is to identify candidates who demonstrate leadership, enthusiasm and a strategic vision for improving healthcare through application of informatics principles and practice. Consideration is given to how a candidate's participation in the program will not only support their personal and professional development but also enable them to contribute to VA's mission and strategic goals. Involvement in VISN and national level work groups and projects is looked upon favorably as it demonstrates initiative, leadership and systems thinking. Ideally, we want to have an interdisciplinary and geographically dispersed group in the course, but we do not have any specific criteria or quotas addressing those elements.

What have former students said about their experience in the course?

- Excellent course. I have changed the way I approach projects and objectives because of what I've learned from this course.
- By far the best online course I have ever taken. For me personally, the course exceeded my expectations. Kudos to the team. A bold vision, executed extremely well.
- The future VA workforce in informatics needs to have this level of excellent training to be successful.
- It was wonderful that we had industry leaders as our guest lecturers!
- This was a great course—it helped me to organize my thoughts and experiences into a rational framework.
- I really enjoyed taking this course and would recommend it to anyone who wants to obtain a broad overview of health informatics.

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 is also available on the [VHA Online Classroom site](#).

Note: This is a training opportunity offered to employees for their own personal and professional development. Selection for this training program will not impact an individual's current position or grade, nor does participation guarantee selection for any future promotion or reassignment opportunity.