MASTER OF HEALTH CARE INNOVATION

CURRICULUM 2025–26*

Through high-quality, engaging online education, the University of Pennsylvania's Master of Health Care Innovation (MHCI) online degree program forges a community of innovative thinkers and leaders and prepares them to improve health care. The multidisciplinary curriculum—taught by leading, active experts—builds students' skills to face urgent needs and long-term challenges.

core courses

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY
KEVIN AHMAAD JENKINS, PHD
KIMBERLY T. JENKINS, PHD, MPH

Explore opportunities to advance programs and policies that improve the health of communities and the work lives of professionals in traditional and non-traditional health care settings.

THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
EZEKIEL J. EMANUEL, MD, PHD

Survey the complex background of the American health care system, how it shapes the present, and where it offers opportunities for innovation in health care policy, payment, quality, and access moving forward.

BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS AND DECISION MAKING
KEVIN VOLPP, MD, PHD

Examine the key concepts of behavioral economics, choice environments, the design of incentive programs and use of social comparisons, and how to use behavioral economics in a policy context.

HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS
CHRISTIAN TERWIESCH, PHD

Examine inefficiencies resulting from waste, variability, and inflexibility, and acquire methods to engage in the ongoing process of reducing these negative impacts without sacrificing quality of care.

LEADING CHANGE IN HEALTH CARE
EZEKIEL J. EMANUEL, MD, PHD

Explore transformative practices in health care, the leadership techniques that have led to their success, and ways to direct change within your organization.

TRANSLATING IDEAS INTO OUTCOMES
LAUREN HAHN, MBA
CHRISTINA J. O'MALLEY, MHA
SARAH ROTTENBERG, MA

Apply analytical and design thinking as this course guides you through developing innovation projects—generating ideas, defining problems, testing, and preparing for delivery—and defining strategies to solve health care problems.

lab courses
Delivered by health care professionals to expand networking.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

With a team of classmates, apply the skills and knowledge you have gained in the MHCI to investigate an exigent health care challenge, identify areas for transformative change, and design an innovative solution that is responsive to stakeholder needs.

DESIGNING INNOVATION

Establish your bona fides as an innovator by planning an initiative tailored to your professional setting. Identify, investigate, and reframe a problem; pressure-test solutions and build a business case; then create a portfolio of materials designed to build support, including an elevator pitch, 1-pager, pitch deck, and presentation.

electives

CONNECTED HEALTH CARE
NICOLAJ SIGGELKOW, PHD
CHRISTIAN TERWIESCH, PHD

Explore connected strategies, frameworks, and delivery models to improve outcomes and competitive advantage, then create a roadmap for your own organization or service.

DIGITAL HEALTH
GEORGE DEMIRIS, PHD, FACMI
KEVIN JOHNSON, MD, MS, FAAP, FAMIA, FACMI

Examine how electronic health systems work, humans in the AI loop, patients and their data, and the types, sources, ethics, and regulation of data.

HEALTH ECONOMICS
GUY DAVID, PHD

Survey the critical economic issues in producing, delivering, and financing health care, such as demand for medical care, the role of physicians in resource allocation, health insurance, and competition in medical care markets.

LEADERSHIP AND LEGAL ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE
THEODORE W. RUGER, JD
MICHAEL USEEM, PHD

Survey the leadership skills and legal knowledge necessary to navigate the complexities of the health care industry at the highest levels.

USING DATA FOR TRANSFORMATION
RAVI B. PARIKH, MD, MPP, FACP

Explore how to turn routine health care data into an algorithm, evaluate the validity of AI products, and understand liability and policy implications around algorithms in health care.

VALUE AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE
LEE A. FLEISHER, MD
NEHA PATEL, MD, MS

Discover the most pressing areas of opportunity for health care innovation by applying quality and measurement tools, and how to leverage quality improvement initiatives to drive value.

* Courses and faculty subject to change.