

Health Care Lab: Introduction to healthcare delivery in the US

Course Overview and Objectives

The focus of this course is on the business challenges and opportunities that arise in the health industry, mainly in the US. **This year we will incorporate many effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through our lectures, guest speakers, and Action Learning projects.** This industry is highly heterogeneous, non-standardized, and very complex. The goal of the course is to provide a broad perspective of the various central system issues as well as business opportunities in the U.S. healthcare delivery and health industry. In particular, **lectures** focus on the following areas:

- **Financial and organizational structures and incentives in the healthcare industry:** interactions of various players (hospitals, doctors, medical professionals, insurance companies, and patients), and how the resulting organizational structures and incentives drive healthcare delivery systems designs and operations
- **Major system design and operational challenges:** Major challenges faced by healthcare delivery systems and alternative system designs that are being considered
- **Data and analytically driven healthcare delivery and health management:** using data-driven, analytical, and scientific business approaches to obtain better (financially and clinically) system performance and decision support tools
- **Innovation in healthcare and health management:** Challenges in developing new business and clinical models that leverage technologies and analytical decision support tools

Healthcare Lab is an **Action Learning Lab**, with project-based learning opportunities on-site at a host organization. Specific goals of the action-learning component are to provide students with:

- **Insights** on real-world issues and challenges faced by healthcare delivery organizations.
- **An intensive learning experience**, working closely with senior leadership.
- **A means to develop skills** to help organizations in complex environments move to action.

Sample of recent guest speakers

- Jason Helgeson, MPP, former Medicaid Director of New York
- Sarah Kadish, EVP of Quality and Safety, Brigham & Women's Hospital
- Sanjay Pathak, COO, CVS MinuteClinic (case study)
- John Halamka, President, Mayo Clinic Platform digital health initiative
- Roy Schoenberg, CEO, American Well
- Christina Severin, CEO, Community Care Cooperative

Course participants

Students taking this course include MBA and Executive MBA students with an interest in health care, as well as doctoral students in areas such as operations research, biology, or biological engineering. Undergraduates majoring in a variety of fields also take this course.

For more:

- H-Lab info and links: <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/action-learning/h-lab#tour-welcome>

Course Details

15 units (9 for Fall, 6 for IAP); Class meets **MW 6:30-8 pm**. Recitation on Fridays 11-12. Credit only, no listeners. For Fall 2020 H-Lab classes and team projects will be 100% remote.