

# Online Master of Health Care Operational Excellence

Managing health care systems today is more than process efficiencies and quality assessment. At every level and dimension, it takes an interdisciplinary approach to get it right. The Master of Health Care Operational Excellence (MHCOE) can help you advance with the knowledge, leadership and skills needed to establish, implement and oversee important process analysis and continuous improvement initiatives in the growing field of health care.

Designed with input from employers, thought leaders, and practitioners, the MHCOE program is taught by leading health care professionals, experts and executives. This program provides a solid foundation in the areas of project management fundamentals, navigating organizational change, process improvement, human-centered design, operations and finance, and emerging issues in health care and related service organizations. The program also addresses the more nuanced human factors and topics of personal leadership and resilience.

Part-time Master's Degree: 30 units, 2.5 years+ to complete

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Website: <https://sever.wustl.edu/degree-programs/healthcare/index.html>

## Faculty

### Program Director

**Leroy Love** (<https://sever.wustl.edu/faculty/Pages/Leroy-Love.aspx>)

Director of Graduate Studies in Health Care Operational Excellence  
MS, Missouri University of Science & Technology  
BS, University of Missouri-Columbia

For a list of our program faculty ([https://sever.wustl.edu/faculty/#health\\_care\\_operational\\_excellence](https://sever.wustl.edu/faculty/#health_care_operational_excellence)), please visit our website.

## Requirements

### Master of Health Care Operational Excellence

**Total units required: 30**

In order to earn the degree, all courses must be passed with a C- or higher. In addition, a student must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.70 over all courses applied toward the degree.

Code	Title	Units
HCO 601	Introductory Overview of Operational Excellence in Healthcare	3
HCO 602	Facilitation Skills / Change Management	3
HCO 607	Project Management in Healthcare	3
HCO 603	Lean Healthcare Concepts, Tools and Lean Management Systems	3
HCO 604	Six Sigma Concepts and Tools	3
HCO 606	Innovation Science and Human Centered Design/Human Factors	3
HCO 610	Special Topics: Developing Leadership Presence	3
HCO 605	Concepts & Tools in Value-Based Health Care	3
HCO 608	Capstone Seminar	3
HCO 609	Capstone Project	3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>30</b>

## Courses

Visit online course listings to view semester offerings for T92 HCO (<https://courses.wustl.edu/CourseInfo.aspx?sch=T&dept=T92&crslvl=5:8>).

### T92 HCO 601 Introductory Overview of Operational Excellence in Health Care

This introductory course is designed to prepare students for the Master's of Healthcare Operational Excellence program. Students will learn the fundamentals of operational excellence principles and how the organizational complexities, regulatory and economic framework, and nuances of healthcare impact the ability to apply them. Students will research and explore both healthcare and non-healthcare examples of performance improvement and operational excellence efforts within different organizations and from different stakeholder perspectives. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of how the various methods, both social and technical, can play an integral role in achieving operational excellence, and how to identify and mitigate challenges and barriers. Specific methods will include facilitating teams, change management, lean, six sigma, project management and the importance of principle-based deployments rooted in changing behaviors and transforming culture. By completing this introductory overview course, students will understand the level of personal transformation in mindset and skills that will be necessary in order to successfully impact the changes needed for health care operational excellence.  
Credit 3 units.

### T92 HCO 602 Facilitation Skills/Change Management

This course integrates strategy and organizational due diligence with facilitation and change management strategies. By examining the relationship between employees, teams, and organizations, students will explore each level and practice assessing and facilitating team processes to maximize productivity and results for members and stakeholders. The course addresses how to get things done when teams lack leadership or authority. Supporting topics include how to build teams, how to manage meetings, how to build relationships

beyond the team, and how to keep teams effective over their life span. Students will learn processes of change and the techniques of change to apply to various types of organizations while using useful design frameworks for facilitation.  
Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 603 Lean Healthcare Concepts, Tools and Lean Management Systems**

Students will learn and apply core Lean tools including Value Stream Mapping, 5S, Visual Management, Standard Work, JIT, Push/Pull, Error Proofing, and Daily Management. Critical to applying Lean effectively, participants will also learn how to plan and lead Rapid Improvement Events and other group activities and tactics. This program has been adopted by BJC executive leadership and is identified as a core competency for transformational efforts. Students will also learn the essential elements of a Lean Management System and how to accomplish sustainable results and the development of a continuous improvement culture.  
Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 604 Six Sigma Concepts and Tools**

This course is designed to teach the tools associated with the five DMAIC phases: Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control. Some of the tools considered for inclusion are Critical to Quality Matrix (CTQ), Failure Modes Effectiveness Analysis (FMEA), Statistical Analysis, Contingency Tables, Hypothesis Testing, Confidence Intervals, Correlation & Regression, Analysis of Variation (ANOVA), Pareto Analysis, Statistical Process Control (SPC), Measurement Systems Analysis (MSA), Data Collection, Time Studies, Root Cause Analysis (RCA), Fishbone Diagramming, Cost of Poor Quality (COPQ), SIPOC, Detailed Process Mapping, Cause and Effect tools, and Design of Experiment (DOE).  
Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 605 Concepts & Tools in Value-Based Health Care**

This course provides an overview of the evolution of the healthcare delivery landscape and an understanding of how coordination of the fragmented components of the healthcare value chain can enhance the quality of care, reduce cost, and improve patient experience and outcomes. Students will learn about different value-based care constructs and disruptive forces in healthcare. Students will learn practical applications of performance improvement tools in value-based care. Specific areas of focus include clinical innovation, alignment structures, payment reform, quality improvement, and information technology.

Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 606 Innovation Science and Human-Centered Design/ Human Factors**

This course is intended to introduce the student to the concept of "design thinking" as well as the process for innovating. It is dependent on an individual's ability to observe what people are actually doing and how they are doing it. It also requires an iterative process for understanding, synthesizing, ideating, prototyping, testing, and implementing. Emphasis will be placed on how to build stakeholder/ user personas and requirements as well as how to map their emotional experience with a process to gain more insights than a quantitative analysis alone would provide. Healthcare needs a "human-centered"

design approach to navigate the blurring of lines between product and service, provider and patient. Designers of processes, methods, and systems now must take the needs of the entire world -- including the environment -- into account. Human factors will need to be applied during the iterative process to account for human factors and the parameters of users and uses.

Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 607 Project Management in Healthcare**

This course is a practical experiential orientation to project management processes, including relevance and application. Students will be exposed to the art of project leader competencies and emotional intelligence in addition to the science of traditional project management methodologies in a healthcare setting. Participants will engage in project initiation, including strategic organizational alignment, concept of why, and charter development. Project planning will include scoping, elicitation of stakeholder requirements, work breakdown structure, scheduling, cost, quality, resources, communications and risk management. Healthcare-related project management and execution will be the focus of practical application, along with other relevant examples from outside of the healthcare industry. Learners will apply the management of triple constraint (time, cost, schedule) as well as skills to align executive sponsor(s) and key stakeholders. Exposure will include disciplines of execution, monitoring, and controlling and closing processes. The course will integrate core concepts of initiating change, portfolio and program management, business analysis, performance improvement, and effective facilitation in a healthcare setting.  
Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 608 Capstone Seminar**

This course integrates the learning from all disciplines and subject matter presented in the Master's in Healthcare Operational Excellence program to complete a comprehensive, practical project in a healthcare-related organization. It will include a summary of the key topics covered within the program and how these apply to student's projects. The course will also focus on leading organizational change and fostering a culture of continuous improvement in healthcare and related service organizations into the future.  
Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 609 Capstone Project**

The capstone project incorporates operational excellence principles, the lean management system, rapid cycle improvement methods, data analysis, change management, facilitation, project management and healthcare cultural issues, thereby integrating the lessons learned through the course work to demonstrate students' mastery of operational excellence in healthcare. Students will work in multidisciplinary teams, delivering a final project that applies their cumulative course work within a context of real industry work.  
Credit 3 units.

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**T92 HCO 610 Special Topics in Healthcare Leadership**

This special topics course will explore emerging best practices in healthcare leadership.  
Credit 3 units.

**T92 HCO 699 Applied Research Study**

Applied Research Study (ARS) is an advanced, project-based course designed to allow students to develop in-depth knowledge and further their education building on the education offered in the Programs. Applied research is a type of examination looking to find practical solutions for existing problems. These can include challenges in the workplace, education, and society. Students collaborate with an adjunct faculty advisor to collect data. Findings are applicable and may be implemented upon completion of a study. Applied research focuses on answering one specific applied research question for a client or sponsor. Applied Research Study must have prior approval of a faculty sponsor and the Program Director.  
Credit 3 units.

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