

Questions & Answers about the Organizing for Health Distance Learning Course

Q. What are the key content areas for the course?

This class addresses the fundamental issues of organizing for health. What is organizing and how does it apply to transforming the health and health care of communities? What part can organizing play in system redesign? How can organizing help communities improve health and care while lowering costs? The class also deeply explores the practices of organizing. What is a campaign and how does it achieve measurable outcomes? How can your story inspire others to join you? How do you build an effective leadership team? How do you motivate others to make good on their commitments to take action?

Q. What will I get out of it?

You will learn about the theory of organizing for health through broad frameworks, concrete examples, and concrete leadership skills. You will learn about yourself as an organizer as you engage these practices with your team in your project. What are your leadership strengths and challenges? What motivates you to engage in this work? How can you do better? The course engages you in a “head-heart-hands” pedagogy that requires self-reflection and encourages lifelong learning.

Q. What are the requirements for the course? Do I need a degree to participate? Is teamwork required?

There are no academic requirements or degrees required to enroll. You should be comfortable speaking and writing in English. You will need access to a computer with a webcam, microphone, and headset, and have the ability to produce and submit videos and written work. Teamwork is a core element of the class and is required. Applicants are encouraged to apply as a **team of 3-5 members**. Individuals may also apply and work with their own teams on organizing projects. Although teams will be given preference for open slots in the course, individuals with similar interests and organizing projects will be grouped together in sections and on peer learning teams. Teams base class work on their experience conducting an organizing project that achieves a measurable outcome by the end of the course.

Q. Who is the faculty?

Course lectures will be given by a team of professors and practitioners, including **Kate Hilton**, JD, MTS, Director of Organizing for Health; **Hope Wood**, Director of the New Organizing University; **Chris Lawrence-Pietroni**, MPA, Campaign Coach to the National Health Service of England; **Dan Grandone**, MPP, Director of Leading Change; **Ruth Wageman**, PhD, Director of Research for ReThink Health; and others. Much of your learning will come from your teammates, classmates, and class section that is taught by a teaching fellow.

Q. Who are the other participants?

The course will develop a community of practice that includes health care administrators, providers, academics, community members, researchers, policy-makers, students and others. All are interested in the transformation of health and health care and engaged in solving the problems they see around them.

Q. What are the dates and times for the class?

This class will run from February 6 to May 11, 2012. Lectures are scheduled every other Monday from 2:30-4:00 pm EST. Biweekly sections times vary according to section assignments.

Q. Are participants expected to be online at specific times, or may we watch the class videos at times that meet our schedule?

You are expected to be online and to participate in class lectures and in sections. We will make every effort to schedule sections for a range of times but some flexibility will be required. If you are unable to attend class (for example, because you live in India, and it is the middle of the night), you may watch the class video recordings.

Q. What happens if I miss a class?

Missing lecture and section is strongly discouraged, and you must email your teaching fellow in advance. If you must miss class, you can watch a recorded session and email your notes to your teaching fellow. Attending the section is mandatory, and you must contact your teaching fellow if you will not be present.

Q. How much does it cost? Is financial assistance available? Do I have to pay separately for each member of my team?

The cost is US \$1995 per participant. Financial assistance is not available at this time. Each team member must pay tuition—there is no group rate available. Organizations may pay tuition for an entire team in one lump payment.

Q. How time consuming is the course? How much time should I expect to spend on assignments?

Please expect to spend an average of 10 hours per week on the course: 1.5 hours for biweekly lectures; 1 hour for biweekly course readings; 1.5 hours biweekly team practice; 1.5 hours biweekly section meetings; and the time you devote to your project, at least 5 hours per week to make real progress.

Q. What does it mean that each participant must be actively engaged in an “organizing project” in health? What if I don’t have one?

We believe that you learn organizing not by talking about it, but by doing it. That is why you are required to engage in an “organizing project” of your own design during the course. Your organizing project will give you the opportunity to put theory into practice and grapple with the challenges and thrills of organizing. Your project can involve partnering with an organization, expanding or implementing an existing idea, or working with the community around you. Your teaching fellow will support you and your team in refining your project and setting goals, but you will be responsible for generating ideas, implementing your plan, and following up.

Q. What kind of computer and software do I need to participate?

No specific type of computer or software is required. However, you must have a stable, strong Internet connection, a webcam, a headset and a microphone. Please use the same computer and internet connection throughout the course.

Q. Are there continuing education credits or a certificate rewarded for completion?

There are no continuing education credits currently available for the course. If your profession requires continuing education as part of your certification, you are welcome to submit this course to the appropriate licensing group and see if it will count towards your requirements. We award course certificates upon completion, and we are happy to verify your participation in this course to third parties. However, we only do this if you attended all classes and sections and participated in all assignments.