

Brandeis

THE HELLER SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL POLICY
AND MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE

MBA

FOR PHYSICIANS

AN ACCELERATED 16-MONTH PROGRAM
FOR PHYSICIAN LEADERS

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The Heller Executive MBA for Physicians

Improving patient care experiences, clinical outcomes, and decision-making efficiency

The Heller School's Executive MBA (EMBA) for Physicians is focused on improving clinical outcomes, financial performance, and patient experiences in healthcare organizations. It is designed for practicing physicians who are – or seek to be – in executive positions of management or leadership. The accelerated 16-month program trains physician leaders in the new science of medicine and management by integrating students' medical expertise with new knowledge in critical areas ranging from health policy and economics to operations, high performance leadership, and healthcare innovation.

Why do physicians need an MBA?

Today's highly complex healthcare landscape is rife with medical reforms and regulations that challenge established management assumptions and behaviors. At the same time, healthcare demands high quality, patient-centered care and dramatically decreased costs. Leaders must have advanced expertise in both clinical care and management to ensure optimal medical outcomes and robust financial performance.

Neither medical nor business schools teach this essential combination of medicine and management required to lead the 21st-century healthcare institution or practice. The Heller School's Executive MBA for Physicians enables MDs, DOs, and DMDs to leverage best practices (and next practices), master management strategies, and link management science with clinical operations to improve patient care, financial performance, and staff productivity.

“Compared to a traditional EMBA, this one taught the subjects with a healthcare focus. My interests aligned much better with my classmates; we all speak the same language and understand each other.”

Amir Taghinia, MD, MBA
Staff Surgeon
Boston Children's Hospital

“The balance of on-site and remote classes works incredibly well. The technology and conduct of the remote sessions keep you in close contact with classmates, which is an essential component of the program.”

Evan Lipsitz, MD, MBA
Chief, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein
College of Medicine

“I had the benefit of being in class with other physicians who are so accomplished that I learned from them daily. The collective intelligence in the room can't be surpassed.”

Tanaz R. Ferzandi, MD, MBA, MS
Director, Division of Urogynecology and Pelvic
Reconstructive Surgery
Tufts Medical Center





Program Structure

The EMBA for Physicians is an accelerated 16-month program consisting of online learning combined with four 10-day on-campus sessions. Designed to fit within the busy schedules and critical responsibilities of practicing MDs, DOs, and DMDs, the program enrolls 30-35 physicians in January who complete the program in May of the following year.

Schedule

The EMBA program consists of four academic semesters. Each semester contains an on-campus residency, which begins on a Thursday evening and ends 10 days later on a Sunday afternoon. There are coordinated online individual and group learning sessions in addition to these residencies.

Semester 1

- Residency: 10 days in January
- Online learning: January to April

Semester 2

- Residency: 10 days in May
- Online learning: May to August

Semester 3

- Online learning: September to January
- Residency: 10 days in January

Semester 4

- Online learning: January to May
- Residency: 10 days in May

Sample Courses

The curriculum includes management and policy courses with a focus on healthcare, such as:

- Operations Management
- Leadership and Organizational Behavior
- Managerial Accounting
- Marketing
- Physicians Executive Field Experience
- Leadership Coaching

Modes of learning

The EMBA curriculum is designed to integrate new knowledge with practical skills to address current and future challenges facing physician leaders. The modes of learning encourage student engagement, peer interaction, and faculty mentorship, as well as incorporation of the students' own leadership experiences. Examples include traditional classroom lectures with individual and team projects, webinars, online independent work modules, case studies and applied learning assignments, simulation exercises, and assessments that integrate knowledge across courses.

There will be several major projects over the 16 months including:

- 360-degree leadership assessment with feedback and individual and group executive coaching
- Leadership shadowing experience during which each student spends time shadowing and learning from a selected leader in their organization
- Process improvement capstone project in which individuals identify a significant leadership or organizational challenge within their institutions and undertake a change management initiative from proposal to completion

The Heller Difference

Heller combines deep experience providing executive education to physicians, a faculty composed of leading healthcare scholars and practitioners, and on-campus research institutes that continually advance the knowledge, best practices, and future thinking within the field.

Experience

The Heller School has been on the forefront of educating future and practicing physicians since 1995 and has been teaching management since 1977. We have extensive experience delivering programs that help physicians improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of healthcare. Our programs include:

- > A longstanding dual MBA/MD in partnership with Tufts University School of Medicine – a program that allows students to master a broad combination of medical and management skills in just four years
- > The Brandeis Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management (BHLP) – an annual program sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education, and 14 surgical societies
- > The Tufts University School of Medicine/Brandeis University Leadership Academy – an experiential, practice-based program for senior-level aspiring and current leaders in the Tufts Medical Center healthcare system
- > The Heller School-Hanley Center PELI Advanced Executive Leadership Course – a partnership program with Maine’s statewide Physician Executive Leadership Institute (PELI)
- > The Executive MBA for Physicians program – our most recent offering, building on the above expertise

Faculty

Our faculty includes academics and physicians on the front lines of medical practice and policy. Leading the program is the director, Dr. Brenda Anderson, who serves on the faculty at the Brandeis Heller School and the Tufts School of Medicine. She has been teaching healthcare financial literacy to physicians and surgeons for over fifteen years. Dr. Anderson formerly worked for KPMG Peat Marwick in the areas of emerging business, audit, consulting, and tax. Dr. Anderson is joined by many senior Brandeis faculty, including Dr. Stuart Altman, the Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy at the Heller School, who served as chairman of the Health Policy Commission for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He has been named one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare” for consecutive years by Modern Healthcare magazine. In addition, Dr. Jody Hoffer Gittel is the founder of the Relational Coordination Research Collaborative, which brings practitioners together to help organizations build relational coordination for high performance. Her research explores how workers, leaders, and customers contribute to quality and efficiency through their coordinated efforts.



A Message from the Program Director

When considering the future of clinical practice and the delivery of health services, there is a growing need to train every physician to be a more effective leader and a collaborative team player. Physicians are uniquely positioned to be

leaders owing to their central role in clinical decision making, working with clinical and nonclinical teams, and managing patient care. Growing evidence suggests that managers with clinical backgrounds can run better healthcare organizations. Nevertheless, physicians may not be prepared to lead. Traditional medical school curricula do not include management courses and, as you know, there is little time in clinical practice devoted to empowering and training physician leaders. Throughout the program, you will develop critical tools to combine your clinical expertise with management expertise to better navigate complexities in health systems today. Please contact us to explore how we can help you gain confidence in leadership roles, advocate for the physician’s perspective in your organizations and work toward improving health systems and patient outcomes.

We look forward to working with you.
Brenda Anderson, PhD

Admissions

To be eligible for admission, applicants are required to have a medical doctorate (MD, DO, or DMD) from an accredited institution or the foreign equivalent. Application requirements include: a completed application form, medical school transcripts, and a resume or curriculum vitae.

Financial Aid

EMBA candidates who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible for Federal Stafford Loans and Graduate PLUS Loans. Private loans may also be available. The Heller School participates in the Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP).

Admission application and financial aid forms can be found on the EMBA for Physicians website.

Contact Us

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