



Veterans Health – MIT Hacking Medicine 2024

Hosted by Tampa VA Medical Center, MIT Hacking Medicine, and Microsoft

May 17-19th at Morsani College of Medicine
560 Channelside Blvd
Tampa, FL 33602

Frequently Asked Questions

Send additional questions to: VHATAMVeteransHealthHack24@va.gov

- Will travel be paid for?
 - Travel is not paid for
- Where will I stay?
 - There is no block of rooms reserved for this event
 - For those that are traveling from outside of Tampa, there are several hotels within walking distance of the venue
 - For local participants you should have plenty of time to make it home each night
- What will I eat?
 - 6 meals are provided throughout the event
 - Friday: Dinner
 - Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - Sunday: Breakfast, Lunch
- What should I bring?
 - You should bring your own personal laptop to use for the event
 - Each hacker will have a set of software tools provided for use:
 - VA is providing a cloud development environment
 - The development environment is provisioned with Azure Open AI

- The environment will include access to synthetic data sets that represent real VA information; a data dictionary of exact variable is available at the event
- Do I need to be a software engineer to participate?
 - No. Teams are formed around a diverse set of skills, experiences, and backgrounds. The more diverse the team, the more creative the solutions
- Do I apply by myself, or as a team?
 - Applications are for individuals
 - The first phase of the hackathon is a series of activities to form teams among all of the hackers
 - Expect to meet new people, make new friends, and expand your network as you work closely with your new teammates
- Am I guaranteed to hack in the track I selected?
 - No. Although we make every effort to align applicants with their first priority, we need to ensure a balanced set of participants are distributed along each of the three tracks
- What do I get if I win?
 - Winning teams are invited to participate in a make-a-thon to further develop the concept toward a working prototype
 - Winners are awarded a first, second, and third place plaque
- Do I have to be there the entire time?
 - It is not mandatory to be there the entire time, however, the hackathon is a short, intense problem solving and solutioning event and typically teams will work the duration of each day. Ultimately it is up to the team to manage themselves
- What other resources will I have available?
 - Throughout Saturday and Sunday morning there are mentors available to the teams to help with technical and business challenges each team is trying to solve as well as to give feedback on the presentations and pitches
 - MIT Hacking Medicine experts give training on each phase of the event to ensure all hackers understand how to get the most out of the hackathon and to develop the best solutions they can
- Why should I becoming a hacker?
 - Your ideas have the potential to make a direct impact on the lives of Veterans
 - You will learn about Artificial Intelligence and how to apply this new technology to modern healthcare problems
 - Hackathons are intense, challenging events that are personally rewarding to participate in
 - You will meet new friends and network with colleagues and other people passionate about solving healthcare problems

- You will gain skills in rapid team formation, problem solving, agile concept development, and communications