



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Redefining Surgical Impact Through Leadership

Surgical Leadership
Certificate Program

“To advance in today’s complex health care institutions, surgeons must rely on more than their technical expertise— leadership, management and business skills matter equally. The Surgical Leadership Program is designed to help surgeons acquire the nontechnical and executive skills needed to step into leadership positions and excel as heads of departments, divisions, initiatives, and institutions.”

Saeed Malek, MD, FACS

Chief of Transplant, Boston Medical Center
Associate Professor of Surgery, Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston University
Faculty Director, Harvard Surgical Leadership Program



About the Program

Harvard Medical School’s Surgical Leadership Program provides advanced training for surgeons who are currently in—or preparing for—leadership roles and want to elevate their impact across health care systems. This one-year certificate program equips participants with the business and executive skills needed to lead teams, departments, and initiatives in complex surgical environments.

Learners build expertise in the nontechnical competencies critical to surgical leadership, including communication, mentoring, change management, quality improvement, and financial decision-making. Through practical application, participants gain the confidence to lead effectively, drive innovation, and improve outcomes across surgical organizations.

Program Format

This one-year certificate program features a blended learning model that integrates three in-person multi-day workshops, live online instruction, faculty-led sessions, collaborative group work, and an individual capstone project. Participants should expect to spend an average of 3–5 hours per week engaging in coursework and program activities.

This blended learning experience includes:

- Three required workshops (Boston, MA)
- Live online lectures and interactive sessions
- Self-paced learning between workshops
- Team-based assignments
- An individual capstone project

Who Should Apply

The Surgical Leadership Program is designed for established surgeons who currently hold, or who seek to attain, leadership positions within academic, clinical, or organizational settings. The program supports surgeons leading or preparing to lead departments, divisions, large health care organizations, clinical programs, and new strategic initiatives. It focuses on developing advanced leadership skills, strategic thinking, and organizational effectiveness to help participants successfully navigate complex health care environments and drive meaningful, sustainable change.

Program Objectives

- Facilitate transformational change and organizational turnaround
- Identify surgical mentors to address the technical, cultural, behavioral, and educational needs of trainees and foster their development as next-generation clinical and academic leaders
- Identify your leadership style, strengths, and personal brand
- Negotiate and advocate more effectively for your patients, teams, and initiatives
- Develop compelling business plans and grant proposals

Surgical Leadership Program

About the Program

This program is anchored by three workshops. In between workshops, expect 3-5 hours of work per week, which includes:

- ~1-2 hours of live online sessions
- ~2-5 hours of work at your own pace

During the first half of the program, participants can expect fewer hours of independent work. The capstone project is introduced during Workshop 2, which will increase weekly workload during the second half of the program.



In Person, Live Online

This program requires attendance at three workshops, and is supplemented by live online sessions and independent work.



\$20,500



Certificate

Earn a Certificate of Completion when you complete all program components



Early Deadline: January 14, 2026

Final Application Deadline: April 1, 2026

Workshop 1: April 26 – 29, 2026 | Boston, MA

Workshop 2: October 13 – 16, 2027 | Boston, MA

Workshop 3: April 12 – 15, 2027 | Boston, MA

Workshop 1 Topics*

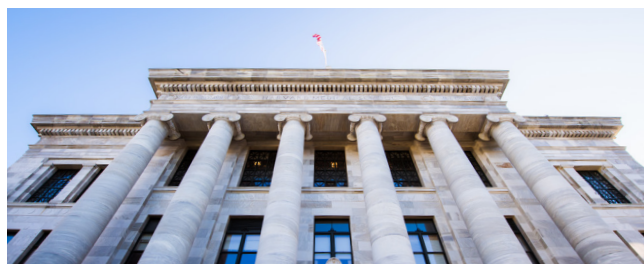
- Leading effective teams
- Adaptive leadership
- Leading through change
- Negotiation
- Leadership case studies and simulation sessions

Workshop 2 Topics*

- Systems thinking
- Strategic thinking
- Leading innovation
- Entrepreneurial approaches
- Cost management

Workshop 3 Topics*

- Building effective teams
- Conflict resolution
- Leading through change



Sample In-Person Workshop Schedule*

**Subject to change*

Time (ET)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:30-10:00am	Welcome and Strategic Thinking in Health Care	Leadership Case	Innovation Case	Leading Organizational Change
10:00-10:30am	Break			
10:30-11:30 am	Software as a Medical Device	Leadership Case	Cost Management in Health Care	Capstone Overview
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch Break			
12:30-2:00pm	Systems Thinking in Adaptive Leadership	Crisis Management	Leadership in Driving Innovation	Adjourn
2:00-2:30pm	Break			
2:30-3:30pm	Adaptive Leadership Case Consultations	Financial Analysis	Personal Branding	
3:30-4:30pm				
Asynchronous and Live Online Sessions held between Workshops				