

Geisel School of Medicine | Enrichment Course: Climate & Health – Research, Action, and Impact

Faculty Sponsors

- Dr. Katie Lichter
- Dr. Sarah Crockett
- Dr. Robert K. McLellan
- Student Coordinator: Kali Smolen, MS4

Course Logistics

- Title: Climate & Health – Research, Action, and Impact
- Dates: **October 7, 2025 – November 18, 2025**
- Duration: ~6 weekly sessions + 1 final community reflection session (60–75 minutes each)
- Day/Time: Tuesdays from 4:30–5:30/5:45 PM, beginning October 7, 2025
- Format: **Hybrid** (in-person and Zoom; in-person encouraged; location at DHMC TBD)
- Open to: Geisel M1s, M2s, MPH, Health Sciences, and other graduate students (auditing/listening welcome, no formal assessment required)

Course Description

This interdisciplinary enrichment course explores how climate change affects human health, healthcare delivery, and systems sustainability. Students will engage in case-based discussions, interactive faculty-led sessions, and campus-wide collaboration opportunities. Each session will include actionable takeaways and highlight interdisciplinary research or advocacy efforts. The course will conclude with a reflective, community-building session (potentially outdoors or at a site such as the Dartmouth Organic Farm) designed to foster connection across climate and health initiatives.

Objectives & Goals

- Identify key ways climate change affects human health and healthcare delivery.
- Describe how health systems contribute to and are impacted by environmental degradation.
- Explore case studies in sustainable care, systems design, disaster response, and advocacy.

- Understand foundational research approaches (e.g., life cycle assessment) used in climate and health work.
- Connect with Dartmouth-based faculty and interdisciplinary research across departments.
- Remain empowered to explore career-spanning opportunities in sustainability and climate-health leadership.

Tentative Course Schedule

- Oct 7 – Climate Change & Health: Framing the Crisis
- Oct 14 – Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Health Response
- Oct 21 – Environmental Exposures and Regional Health Risk
- Oct 28 – Healthcare Waste, Emissions, and Sustainable Systems
- Nov 4 – Cardiopulmonary Health, Equity, and Climate Vulnerability
- Nov 11 – Systems Thinking: Operational Tools for Climate-Resilient Care
- Nov 18 – Final Session: Community Reflection & Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Method(s) of Instruction

- Weekly 75-minute sessions including short didactics, guest speakers, and discussion.
- Hybrid delivery (Zoom + in-person) based on availability, with in-person encouraged.
- **Emphasis on practical applications, faculty research, and opportunities for student engagement.**
- No required readings; optional materials shared before or after sessions. Reflection-based discussion and interactive Q&A formats encouraged.

Method of Assessment / Requirements

Students will be graded Pass/Fail based on attendance at 5 out of 6 sessions and submission of short reflections after each session. Students auditing or attending as listeners will not be formally assessed.

Additional Comments or Special Instructions

- Students from across Dartmouth are welcome — including Geisel, TDI, Thayer, and Arts & Sciences — to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Students will have the opportunity to connect with active research, advocacy, and QI projects.
- This course is aligned with the Dartmouth Cancer Center Division of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience.