

COURSE
CATALOG
2026-2027



POSITIVE ACORN

COURSE CATALOG
2026-2027



COACHING SKILLS

Instructor: Dr. Robert Biswas-Diener

We developed our foundational coaching skills program to combine cutting-edge teaching practices with scientific literacy, ethical thinking, and best practices in coaching. This course introduces the coaching relationship and provides an experiential learning environment to understand the profession and develop skills.

Rather than focusing solely on completing a certificate, we train for mastery. We want our graduates to be thoughtful, responsible, and effective coaches.

This 13-week course includes an orientation session and 23 class meetings. It requires additional time to read and engage with the pre-recorded lecture. Most live class sessions include time for skills practice in breakout rooms.

Learning Objectives:

- Sophisticated facilitation skills
- How to ask deep questions
- Tools for creating trust and safety for clients
- How to fast-forward positive client change
- An ethical approach to coaching

Learning Tools:

- “Flipped classroom” so that we rarely use class meetings for lecture
- Orientation to empirically-validated learning
- Breakout practice sessions
- Coaching demonstrations
- Case studies
- Recordings of real coaching sessions
- Supporting readings
- Partner practice





Week One:

Introduction to Coaching

Week Two:

Creating Client Awareness

Week Three:

Developing Coaching Presence

Week Four:

Asking Powerful Questions

Week Five:

Introduction to Ethics and Core Competencies

Week Six:

Values Clarification

Week Seven:

Visible Learning Week: Self-paced study

Week Eight:

The Psychology of Goals and Motivation

Week Nine:

Working with Metaphor

Week Ten:

The Stages of Change

Week Eleven:

Solutions Focus

Week Twelve:

Using In-Session Activities

Week Thirteen:

Hope Diagnosis

Bonus Materials:

Visible Learning Review: Self Paced Study

Duration

Coaching Skills runs from September 15-December 10, 2026.

There are two choices of class times.

Participants can attend either session:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays
- 9-10:30 am Pacific
- 5-6:30 pm Pacific

Visible Learning Week- no live session

Self-paced study

October 26-30, 2026

No Class:

November 26, 2026

Coaching Skills is 54 credits.

Price: \$4600

\$300 discount if registering for ICF Level 1 Course Package





APPLIED POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Robert Biswas-Diener

The science of positive psychology is our sweet spot. Positive psychology is an empirical approach to understanding what goes right, rather than what goes wrong, with people. Topics in this science include well-being, optimism, resilience, courage, flow, and many others. We leverage our expert knowledge in Positive Psychology to introduce nuanced and effective practical skills. This six-week course includes 12 class meetings and requires additional time for reading and engaging with the pre-recorded lecture.

Learning Objectives:

- Spot strengths in clients
- Debrief the Strengths Profile assessment
- List three ways to develop client strengths
- Use curiosity as a problem-solving tool
- Articulate a definition of happiness

Learning Tools:

- “Flipped classroom” so that we rarely use class meetings for lecture
- Coaching demonstrations
- Case studies
- Recordings of real coaching sessions
- Supporting readings
- Partner practice





Session One:

Introduction to the Science of Positive Psychology

Session Two:

Strengths Spotting, Ethics, and Microculture

Session Three:

Strengths Development

Session Four:

The Strengths Profile Assessment

Session Five:

The Positive Self

Session Six:

Positive Work

Session Seven:

The Science of Happiness

Session Eight:

Increasing Courage

Session Nine:

Solutions Focus Coaching

Session Ten:

Emotion in Coaching

Session Eleven:

Curiosity and Interest as Problem-Solving Tools

Session Twelve:

Savoring

Duration

Applied Positive Psychology runs from February 23 to April 8, 2027.

There are two choices of class times.

Participants can attend either session:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays
- 9-10:30 am Pacific
- 5-6:30 pm Pacific

Visible Learning Week:

March 15-19, 2027

Optional Practice Sessions:

- March 5, 12:00-1:30 pm Pacific
- April 2, 12:00-1:30 pm Pacific

Time Change:

March 14, 2027 - Daylight Saving in the US begins, clocks move forward one hour in the USA

Applied Positive Psychology is 36 credits.

Price: \$2300

Free if registering for ICF Level 1 Package!





GROUP MENTOR COACHING

Instructor: Dr. Christian van Nieuwerburgh

or

Instructor: Dr. Robert Biswas-Diener

Participants will accelerate their professional development by learning the skills of reflective practice. This practice is more than just noticing what goes wrong in coaching and trying to fix weaknesses. Rather than focusing on “getting it right,” we emphasize the development of personal style, identifying moments of critical choice within each session, and engaging in ongoing improvement. Mentor Coaching occurs in a safe and supportive environment. Past participants describe it as “empowering.”

Course Details:

This course provides 7 hours of group mentoring. Groups are limited to 10 members to ensure that each person receives individualized attention. This course fulfills 7 of the 10 hours of mentor coaching required for credentialing. It does not include three hours of individual mentoring needed for full Level 1 certificate.

Priority registration is given to those enrolled in the ICF Level 1 package.

Level 1 package price: \$5,300

Ala cart Group Mentoring price \$1,000

Session One: Change

Session Two: Knowledge

Session Three: Use of Self

Session Four: Beginnings and Endings





Section A
Christian van Nieuwerburgh
Tuesday
Class Time: 9-11:00 AM Pacific

Session 1: January 12, 2027
Session 2: January 19, 2027
Session 3: January 26, 2027
Session 4: February 2, 2027

Section B
Robert Biswas-Diener
Thursday
Class Time: 5-7:00 PM Pacific

Session 1: January 14, 2027
Session 2: January 21, 2027
Session 3: January 28, 2027
Session 4: February 4, 2027

Section C
Christian van Nieuwerburgh
Thursday
Class Time: 9-11:00 AM Pacific

Session 1: January 14, 2027
Session 2: January 21, 2027
Session 3: January 28, 2027
Session 4: February 4, 2027

Section D
Robert Biswas-Diener
Wednesday
Class Time: 5-7:00 PM Pacific

Session 1: January 13, 2027
Session 2: January 20, 2027
Session 3: January 27, 2027
Session 4: February 3, 2027





ADVANCED PRACTICE IN POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY COACHING

Instructors: Dr. Robert Biswas-Diener & Dr. Christian van Nieuwerburgh

This 6-week course is an opportunity for experienced coaches and positive psychology practitioners to deepen their knowledge and expand their skills in positive psychology coaching. It will provide a range of pedagogic tools-seminar, demonstration, reflection, and fishbowl coaching experiences-to promote sophisticated conversations about the practice of positive psychology coaching. This course is intended to deepen each participant's sophistication in applying positive psychological theory and research to their own coaching practice. Although we will focus on positive psychology as a lens for coaching, we will also attend to core skills in coaching such ethical decision making and coaching presence.

Who this course is for:

This course is not intended to teach basic coaching skills or to provide an introduction to positive psychology. Instead, it is an advanced practicum for those who are experienced coaches, have completed coach training, and who already have a cursory knowledge of positive psychological science. This course is limited to 6 participants and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. If you have questions about your qualifications for this course please do not hesitate to ask.

Duration

This Course runs January 11 – February 17, 2027

Class times are Mondays and Wednesdays 9-10:30am Pacific

Participants receive 21.5 Core Competency Credits or can receive 7 of these hours as Group Mentor Coaching hours.





THE COACHING LAB

Instructors: Dr. Robert Biswas-Diener & Dr. Christian van Nieuwerburgh

The Coaching Laboratory is an opportunity to “look under the hood” and examine the engine of coaching. Drs. Christian van Nieuwerburgh and Robert Biswas-Diener facilitate a one-of-a-kind coaching experience. Participants in the coaching lab will be on the cutting edge of coaching practice. Christian and Robert (and highly-experienced coach guests) will experiment with the coaching process: tinkering with silence, interruption, acknowledgment, questions, metaphors, and other staple techniques of coaching. Participants will then have the opportunity to discuss and practice coaching using insights drawn from these demonstrations.

Each session will include demonstrations, discussion, and opportunities for participants to engage in practice with their peers. It will be an opportunity to question the foundational assumptions of coaching. Not to dismiss traditional methods, but to improve upon them.

This laboratory experience meets once a month for 6 months. Each session is 90 minutes. Everyone is expected to participate in discussion and coaching to the extent possible.

Class Dates/Times (Pacific Time):

- September 14, 2026 9-10:30 am
- October 12, 2026- 9-10:30 am
- November 9, 2026- 9-10:30 am
- January 18, 2027- 7-8:30 am
- (note different time)
- February 22, 2027- 9-10:30 am
- March 15, 2027 - 9-10:30 am

Participants can receive up to 9 Core Competency Credits.

1.5 credits per session.

Price: \$300

