

Introduction

Lean Six Sigma skills and qualifications represent a great opportunity as an advantage for students entering the job market, and the universities, business schools and other academic institutions support students on their academic journeys.

In today's competitive, modern workplace, Lean Six Sigma expertise can separate those students from their peers who lack this valuable skill set.

What is Lean Six Sigma?

Lean Six Sigma is a powerful management tool that centers on continuous improvement. It consists of Lean (which focuses on gaining speed and efficiency and taking waste out of a process) and Six Sigma (which focuses on effectiveness and the removal of errors). There are several levels of Lean Six Sigma which are called belts. Just like in martial arts, they range from Yellow Belt all the way up to Black Belt.

Lean Six Sigma was developed at major companies like Motorola and Toyota and has since developed into a global method used widely in industrial, manufacturing and public service sectors. Huge improvements to business performance and processes have been attributed to Lean Six Sigma over the decades.

Whilst particularly popular in certain industries, Lean Six Sigma is universally applicable; it has the potential to benefit businesses across all industries and services. Students learning Lean Six Sigma during their studies have a potentially significant advantage when embarking on the career and entering the labor market.

The Benefits

Students will learn how to initiate, execute and supervise improvement projects in different fields. They will be equipped with valuable knowledge and skills concerning process management, efficiency, team performance and change management; skills vital and sought after in a range of industries and disciplines. They will develop leadership skills and understand how to benefit from a range of tools and techniques including Pareto, Ishikawa, Measurement System Analysis, Value Stream Mapping and many more.

By offering the Lean Six Sigma courses, universities and schools can offer students immediate value in the labor market; a marketable benefit for the institution. Additionally, they are in a better position to deliver professionals who can immediately deliver value to employees in vital areas such as process innovation or continuous improvement.

Key Lean Six Sigma skills and learning outcomes can be summarized as:

- Project management skills: communication, leadership, negotiation, organization, risk management.
- Critical thinking skills: interpretation, analysis, inference, evaluation, explanation, self-regulation of abilities.
- Analytical skills: data collection, data cleaning, data interpretation.

A Lean Six Sigma certification indicates to an employer that the individual:

- Understands real world business processes
- Understands how to analyze, optimize and improving business processes
- Understands how to work with others to bring about successful and continuous improvements.



The benefits to students with Lean Six Sigma skills and/or certification:

- Implement learning immediately in the workplace; bringing immediate value to their employer
- High demand for Lean Six Sigma skills in a range of industries
- Highly relevant to a range of roles (production, operations, etc.)
- Lean Six Sigma qualified professionals can command higher salaries
- Lean Six Sigma is recognized internationally in a wide range of industries/sectors
- Supplement wider business degrees / qualifications with valuable, sought after skills and attributes.

How can Lean Six Sigma Academy help?

Lean Six Sigma Academy (LSSA) is the Scheme Owner for a Lean Six Sigma training and certification developed in partnership with global examination institute APMG International. LSSA designs the training and certification standards for Lean Six Sigma and have developed a series of training materials for each belt level of Lean Six Sigma, including books, presentations, syllabi and exams.

LSSA is an open, professional and quality-driven community with a network of Accredited Training Organizations (ATOs) and exam institutions. LSSA believes Lean Six Sigma can provide students with a great opportunity to gain an advantage even before entering the workforce. Accordingly, they have designed a special pricing strategy for students.

LSSA would love to tell you more about ways you can implement Lean Six Sigma in your curriculum and give your students a head-start in their career.

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