

Agile for the Product Owner

Course Duration: 2 days (Live in person class only)

Course Level: Applied learning intended for product owners and business SMEs working with agile teams that use scrum.

- Product Owners
- Product Managers
- Team Leadership
- Project Managers

Course Description:

This course will teach the new product owner how to envision a product and drive out good requirements that can be prioritized to reduce project risk and maximize return on investment. The course will start from the beginning of a business need and derive the project and backlog of work starting from scratch. This course will teach you how to envision a product and drive out good requirements that can be prioritized to reduce project risk and maximize return on investment. The course will start from the beginning of a business need and derive the project vision, roadmap, release plan, and sprint-ready requirements in the form of user stories. Vertical slicing, prioritization, estimation and right-sizing requirements will be thoroughly practiced through a series of exercises. Common pitfalls and techniques to avoid those pitfalls will be thoroughly explored with multiple hands on exercises. The objective of this class is to train you to be effective and maximize ROI for an agile Scrum project.

Prerequisites:

No prerequisites - This course is suitable for both novice and experienced professionals who need to manage and implement a project. It is recommended that participants have a basic understanding of project management and business processes and business analysis.

Course Details:

The use of agile as an approach to managing projects has been increasing dramatically over the last several years. Agile is an incremental, iterative framework for project management and software development - where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams. This disciplined project management process involves:

- A leadership philosophy that encourages teamwork, self-organization and accountability
- A set of engineering best practices intended to allow for rapid delivery of high-quality software
- A business approach that aligns development with customer needs and company goals.

The Product Owner role as defined by Scrum as a key role that acts as the single voice to drive development of the product. They must possess certain skills and characteristics in order to be effective and to optimize the business' return on investment (ROI). If the Product Owner is ineffective then the Scrum team will be too.

Learning Objectives:

- The learner will understand the reasons behind Scrum ceremonies, removing common misunderstandings of the Scrum framework.
- The learner will be able to apply multiple techniques to develop backlogs and requirements that encourage an emergent approach to product development.

- The learner will understand the role of the Scrum Master in enabling self organizing, cross functional, high performance teams and be able to see signs of ineffective teams.
- The learner will understand the basis for techniques to address difficulties in working with non-agile groups and encourage more emergence within these groups.
- The learner will understand the implications of scaling and some of the mechanisms to coordinate and track scrum in the large.
- The learner will differentiate between direct metrics of customer value versus indirect metrics of customer value.

Agile Scrum Product Owner Outline

Section I: Agile Overview

Gain an overall understanding of the background and benefits of agile and common methodologies practiced in organizations today. Topics covered:

- What is Agile?
- Why Agile?
- Agile Manifesto and Principles
- Agile Methodologies
- Sprint Overview

Section II. Product Owner Overview

Learn the role, responsibilities, and characteristics needed to become an effective Product Owner. Topics covered:

- Role of the Product Owner
- Responsibilities of the PO
- Characteristics needed to be a supportive PO

Section III. The Agile Team

Explore the roles and characteristics of a strong agile team and learn what a Product Owner needs to do to support an agile team. Topics covered:

- Roles of an Agile Team
- Characteristics of a strong Agile Team
- Supporting an Agile Team

IV. Agile Planning

Many individuals believe when you implement agile practices, you throw planning out the window altogether. In this section we will dispel that myth and discuss in-depth the various levels of planning necessary to deliver in an agile environment. Topics covered:

- 5 Levels of Planning
- Vision Development
- Product Road Mapping
- Feature Prioritization
- Release Planning

Section V: Building and Managing the Backlog

Learn how to develop user personas and write users stories in order to successfully build out and manage a product backlog. Topics covered:

- User Personas
- Epics
- Writing User Stories
- Sizing User Stories

Section VI: Sprint Planning and Execution

Discuss and understand the typical ceremonies conducted within a sprint in an agile development process. Topics covered:

- Sprint Planning
- Execution
- Backlog Refinement
- Demo
- Retrospective

Section VII: Agile Leadership

Explore what it means to be an agile leader and bring servant leadership to your teams. We will explore attributes of an agile leader and commit to becoming agile leaders in order to support our teams and grow our organizations. Topics Covered:

- What is Agile Leadership
- Servant Leadership
- Attributes of Agile Leaders