

Module 04 - Roles and Responsibilities in Six Sigma

Six Sigma is a team-based approach, and each role plays a crucial part in driving change, solving problems, and ensuring that the improvement initiatives are successful and sustainable. Whether you're a leader, a project manager, or a team member, knowing your responsibilities and understanding the dynamics between the roles is key to achieving the goals of Six Sigma.

Champion

The Champion is typically a senior leader who ensures that Six Sigma projects align with organizational goals. They provide the necessary resources, remove obstacles, and champion the initiative throughout the company.

A Six Sigma Master Black Belt (MBB)

Plays a critical leadership role in driving organizational improvement initiatives. The MBB is responsible for overseeing Six Sigma projects, mentoring Black Belts and Green Belts, and ensuring that Six Sigma methodologies are effectively implemented across an organization.

Black Belt

Black Belts are experts in Six Sigma methodologies. They lead projects, manage teams, and drive process improvements by analyzing data and solving complex problems. They also mentor Green Belts and Yellow Belts.

Green Belt

Green Belts work on Six Sigma projects part-time, assisting Black Belts with data collection, analysis, and implementation of solutions. They are essential to executing tasks within the project.

Yellow Belt

Yellow Belts provide support to Six Sigma projects by contributing ideas, helping with data collection, and assisting with minor process improvements. They play a key role in supporting the broader team.

White Belts

White Belts are individuals from various departments who contribute their expertise to the project, offering insights, suggestions, and collaborating on solutions.

Each role builds on the previous, creating a robust team structure that ensures the success of Six Sigma projects across all levels of an organization

By understanding these roles, you'll see how teamwork and collaboration drive Six Sigma's success in improving processes.

The DMAIC methodology

Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control—is typically used for improving existing processes. It provides a step-by-step framework for identifying problems, measuring current performance, analyzing data to uncover root causes, implementing improvements, and establishing controls to sustain the improvements over time.

DMADV methodology

Alternatively, for designing new processes, Six Sigma uses the DMADV methodology—Define, Measure, Analyze, Design, and Verify. This methodology helps in creating processes that meet customer needs and perform at a high level of quality right from the start. By applying either of these frameworks, Six Sigma ensures that every project is driven by data, focused on solving root problems, and built to deliver sustainable improvements.

Typical Six Sigma Project Structure

A Six Sigma project follows a well-defined structure, with each team member having specific roles and responsibilities that contribute to the overall success of the project. Here's an overview of the typical roles in a six-sigma project.

Project Champion

The Project Champion is an executive sponsor who ensures that the project aligns with the organization's goals and strategic objectives. They provide the necessary resources, remove barriers, and help drive the project to success at the senior level.

Master Black Belt

The Master Black Belt oversees the strategic direction of the project and ensures alignment with the broader organizational initiatives. They mentor Black Belts, providing guidance on advanced tools, methodologies, and ensuring the project adheres to Six Sigma principles.

Black Belt

The Black Belt leads the project, manages the project team, and drives the DMAIC execution. They are responsible for the overall success of the project, performing in-depth data analysis, leading problem-solving sessions, and implementing improvements.

Green Belt

Green Belts support the Black Belt by leading smaller sub-projects and assisting with data

Ontario Business Excellence Incorporation, Canada.

Info@obexcellence.com | www.obexcellence.com

Six Sigma White Belt Support

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collection and analysis. They help implement the improvements and are key contributors to executing the Six Sigma methodology within their respective areas.

Team Members (Yellow/White Belts)

Team Members, including Yellow and White Belts, actively participate in the project by collecting data, brainstorming solutions, and contributing to process improvement activities. Their involvement helps ensure the practical implementation of improvements on the ground level.

Together, these roles ensure that the project is guided strategically, implemented efficiently, and achieves measurable improvements.