BAE7

Business Analysis in an Agile Environment   2 Days

How does Business Analysis fit with Agile software development? And how can Agile software development be improved through a disciplined approach to Business Analysis?

This course addresses business concerns like setting business objectives and scope modeling before starting to develop software. Once the software development begins, the iterative work of managing the product backlog and elaborating user stories using lightweight models to elicit, analyze and communicate requirements, and to iteratively validate the resulting product is the focus. Agile Scrum is an incremental, iterative framework for project management and software development in which requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams. Participants employ additional business analysis tools and techniques to effectively contribute as a member of a project team. The necessary activities to effectively transition to an Agile environment are also practiced.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The role of the Business Analyst is different on an Agile project: instead of just documenting requirements, the Agile BA is a communicator of requirements, and may even become a proxy for the business product owner.

In this course, you will:

- Experience the role of a Business Analyst on an Agile project
- Confidently apply user personas, user stories and backlog management techniques
- Explore new ways to model, validate and communicate requirements

Through a case study and hands-on exercises, we will explore concepts from Scrum, Extreme Programming, Behavior-Driven Development and Test-Driven Development to understand how Business Analysis and Agile software development complement each other.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the business case for Agile
- Explain how Agile projects can benefit from a Business Analysis approach
- Apply UML modeling techniques to define the solution scope of an Agile project
- Translate that scope into user stories
- Apply proven prioritization and estimation techniques to manage the product backlog
- Elaborate user stories and elicit, analyze and communicate requirements
- Lead an Agile requirements workshop
- Participate in Agile best practices
- Guide the users through iterative product evaluations

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Business Analysts who will be working in an Agile environment
- Software development professionals or project managers working with a Business Analyst on an Agile project

KEY TOPICS COVERED

- The role of the BA on an Agile project
- Vision and scope definition – Agile style
- User personas, user stories and story maps
- Managing the product backlog
- Estimating and setting priorities

COURSE OUTLINE

Agile Business Analysis

- Explain what is meant by the term Agile
- Explain the foundation of Agile software development
- Explain the current business case for the Agile approach

Inside Agile

- Explain the essential terminology and concepts of Agile software development
- Explain how iterative development deals with constantly changing requirements, while still delivering a high quality product that meets business priorities

Establish the Vision

- Conduct a visioning workshop – Agile style

Develop User Personas

- Analyze stakeholders to identify user personas.
- Write effective user persona descriptions

Establish the Solution Scope

- Define the scope of the solution – Agile style

Write and Organize User Stories

- Identify and write user stories
- Apply a story map to link the user stories to the solution scope
- Apply the INVEST model to improve the user stories

Analyze the User Stories

- Use requirements artifacts to analyze the user stories.
- Apply the principles of Test-Driven Development to improve the requirements analysis

Manage the Product Backlog

- Help the business stakeholders to establish priorities based on business value
- Estimate the effort required to develop the solution based on story points

End-of-Iteration Evaluation

- Guide the users through iterative product evaluations
- Conduct a retrospective

ABOUT BA ESSENTIALS

- Each course in the program takes an experiential learning approach: more hands on work and one-on-one interaction rather than lecture, to allow you to build knowledge and skills.
- Our instructors are skilled business analysts with many years of experience in the field.
- Students successfully completing the 7 courses in three years will receive an Algonquin College certificate in Business Analysis Essentials.

Courses in the Business Analysis Essentials program include:

1. Fundamentals of Business Analysis
2. Accelerated Requirements Elicitation and Analysis
3. Facilitation Techniques for Business Analysts
4. Modeling Business Processes and Workflows
5. Use Case Modeling
6. Validating and Testing Requirements
7. Business Analysis in an Agile Environment

Most of the courses can be taken in or out of sequence to complete the full program, although we strongly recommend that you take the Fundamentals of Business Analysis course first, even if you are an experienced business analyst.

You can also take individual courses to fill knowledge and skills gaps.

Algonquin College is an Endorsed Education Provider™ (EEP™) of IIBA. Courses in the BA Essential program are eligible for Professional Development hours (PD hours) for certification and Continuing Development Units (CDUs) for recertification. This course is eligible for 16 PD Hours/CDUs.

Algonquin College is a Global Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.) of the Project Management Institute. Courses in the BA Essentials program are eligible for PMI® Professional Development Units (PDUs). This course is eligible for: 16 PMP® Technical PDUs or 16 PMI-Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA)® PDUs.

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HOW TO REGISTER

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