

The Flow System – Complexity Thinking Advanced Course (CT-A1)

Syllabus

Description of Course

The Complexity Thinking Advanced Course (CT-A1) identifies the similarities and differences between systems theory and complexity theory. Participants will have a better understanding of complexity and be able to differentiate between different types of problems (simple, complicated, complex, wicked). The Cynefin Framework will be introduced to aid participants in identifying which type of problem or environment one is facing and to better identify which techniques and tools to use in the different domains. Participants will learn the steps to complexity thinking and become familiar with complex adaptive systems (CAS) and the eight characteristics of CAS.

Duration of Training

The Complexity Thinking Advanced Course (CT-A1) requires 16 hours of training and can be taken as a two-day in-person training session, an online live virtual class, or as an asynchronous self-paced online training using The Flow System's learning management system (LMS). This course can be taught publicly or privately to any organization.

Participants must complete the training before receiving a code allowing them to take the Complexity Thinking Advanced Course (CT-A1) assessment for accreditation. The fee for the assessment is included in the course fee for training attendees.

Participants who attend the training will have two attempts at the Complexity Thinking Advanced Course (CT-A1) assessment. Participants who wish to forgo the training and jump straight to the assessment may do so but must first buy a code and will only have one attempt as opposed to two for people taking the training. You can buy a code below by clicking 'Take Assessment.'

Objectives of Course

This course is an advanced course and is the foundational course for all the mastery level training in the Complexity Thinking Master Track. After successfully completing this course participants should be able to:

- Differentiate between systems theory and complexity theory.
- Identify the benefits and weaknesses of systems and complexity theory and know when to apply the correct theory and techniques.
- Understand what defines complexity and what makes an environment a complex environment.
- Differentiate between simple, complicated, complex and wicked problems.
- Understand that different techniques and tools are required for problems in the simple and complicated domains and that different techniques and tools are required for problems in the complex domain.
- Identify the differences between the different domains of the Cynefin Framework.
- Describe the five domains of disorder, clear, complicated, complex, and chaotic in the Cynefin Framework.
- Apply the Cynefin Framework to a real-world problem.
- Identify the steps to Complexity Thinking.
- Describe complex adaptive systems.
- Describe the eight characteristics of complex adaptive systems.

Outline of Course

- Introductions
- Overview (TFS, Customer 1st, Complexity Thinking)
- What is leadership?
- Systems Theory
- Complexity Theory
- Types of Problems
- Addressing Complex Problems
- Sensemaking
- The Cynefin Framework
- Systems Thinking versus Complexity Thinking
- The Steps to Complexity Thinking
- Complex Adaptive Systems
- The Eight Characteristics of Complex Adaptive Systems

The Flow System Advanced Accreditation

Participants completing the Foundations (FS-1) training (in-person) or the Foundations (FS-1) course (online), or those who wish to only take the Foundations accreditation exam without participating in training or an online course, can take the exam at any time. Participants who complete training (face-to-face or online) will have two attempts at the exam. Participants who wish to forgo any training may do so and pay to take the exam. Participants who skip any training will have one chance to pass the exam. Upon passing the Foundations Exam, participants will receive a Certification of Completion for The Flow System Foundations Course. Once a Certification of Completion for The Flow System Foundations Course has been obtained, participants can continue to any of the Advanced Courses (see Figure 1). The Flow System Training Map can be found in Figure 1 provided below.

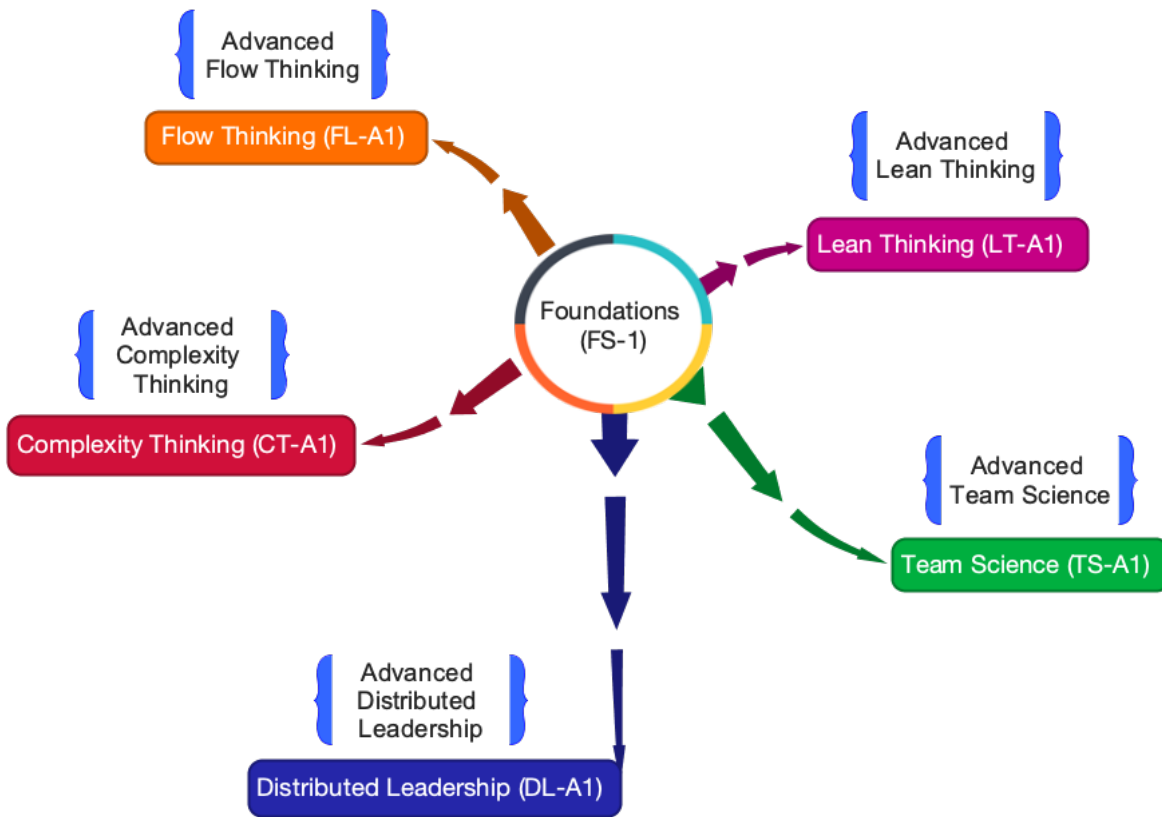


Figure 1: The Flow System Foundations and Advanced Courses

The Flow System Masters Accreditation



There are a total of five master level accreditations to choose from. Once the foundations course (FS-1) and the selected advanced course has been successfully completed and the accreditation exam passed, participants can continue to take courses at the master level within the chosen advance track. Participant can only continue to the master level courses after achieving the appropriate advanced accreditation. For example, before taking any of the complexity thinking master level courses (CT-M1 through CT-M5), the foundations (FS-1) and complexity thinking advance (CT-A1) course must first be successfully completed.

The master level courses for the Complexity Thinking track include the following courses:

- Complexity Thinking (CT-M1)
- Cynefin Framework (CT-M2)
- Complex Facilitation Techniques (CT-M3)
- Advanced Cynefin Framework (CT-M4)
- Complex Decision Making (CT-M5)

A master level accreditation in Team Science will include the following path:

1. Mastery Flow Thinking Certificate of Completion
 - a. Accredited in the Foundations (FS-1) course
 - b. Accredited in the Complexity Thinking (CT-A1) Advanced course
 - c. Successful completion of all 5 Mastery Complexity Thinking courses
 - i. Complexity Thinking (CT-M1)
 - ii. Cynefin Framework (CT-M2)
 - iii. Complex Facilitation Techniques (CT-M3)
 - iv. Advanced Cynefin Framework (CT-M4)
 - v. Complex Decision Making (CT-M5)
 - d. Pass Mastery Complexity Thinking Accreditation Exam

Courses	Course Completion & Exam	Accreditation
Foundations Course		Foundations Accreditation
Advanced Course Complexity Thinking		Advanced Complexity Thinking Accreditation
Mastery Complexity Thinking Courses: CT-M1 + CT-M2 + CT-M3 + CT-M4 + CT-M5		Mastery Complexity Thinking Accreditation

Trainers

The Flow System Foundations Course (in-person) will be administered by the co-creators of The Flow System and/or by certified TFS trainers. The online courses will only be administered and monitored by the co-creators of The Flow System. All trainers are considered experts in their field of practice/study and have a command of the materials that are presented in The Flow System Foundations Course.

Recommended Readings

The Flow System Reading Materials include 1) *The Flow System: The Evolution of Agile and Lean Thinking in an Age of Complexity*; 2) *The Flow System Guide*; and 3) *The Flow System: Key Principles and Attributes*.

- 1) *The Flow System: The Evolution of Agile and Lean Thinking in an Age of Complexity*

Available from Amazon.

Hardback:

<https://amzn.com/1680400584/>

Kindle:

<https://amzn.com/B08NXPGMSC/>

- 2) *The Flow System Guide*

Available online (free)

<https://flowguides.org/index.php>

Amazon book (print-to-order)

<https://amzn.com/B085KN39FP>

Amazon Kindle Format

<https://amzn.com/B085PQFXFN/>

- 3) *The Flow System: Key Principles and Attributes*

Amazon book (print-to-order)

<https://amzn.com/B085DQB92N/>

Amazon Kindle Format

<https://amzn.com/B085DHFNMT/>