

# The Flow System – Flow Thinking Advanced Course (FL-A1)

## Syllabus

### Description of Course

The Flow Thinking (FT-A1) advanced course explores the different concepts of flow (individual, collective, societal) and presents various contextual definitions for flow. As flow relates to value being delivered to the customer, the concept of customer 1<sup>st</sup> will be revisited in more detail compared to what was presented in The Flow System Foundations (FS-1) course.

This course introduces different concepts that potentially impact the flow of value being delivered to the customer while also introducing participants to different scaling, visualization, and mapping techniques. How flow can be measured or evaluated is also included in this advanced course.

We look at queue blindness, Design in Process Inventory (DIP), and Product Development Inventory. We explore how value streams and value chains work, and how organizational design for flow efficiency is different to process or resource efficiency.

This course also investigated the value of variability in opposition to established Lean Thinking. Participants will learn the benefits of managing queues rather than timelines and will be introduced to constraint management techniques. The topics of cadence, synchronization, flow control, batch sizing, economics, and decentralized control will be introduced to participants.

### Duration of Training

The Flow Thinking (FT-A1) advanced course 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 Flow Thinking (FT-A1) advanced level 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 Flow Thinking (FT-A1) CT-M1) advanced level 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 in which participants should have an understanding of The Flow System Foundations (FS-1) and must have successfully obtained accreditation in The Flow System Foundations. After successfully completing this course participants should be able to:

- Define how flow should be defined for their organization.
- Explain different contextual definitions of flow.
- Explain value Streams and Value Chains and how they are designed.
- Design teams for flow efficiency.
- Identify how flow can benefit the participant's customer(s).
- Identify queues and describe why they are hidden.
- Describe how to manage queues and achieve effective timelines.
- Define effective constraints.
- Describe how to manage constraints.
- Explain how to utilize variability to enable flow.
- Describe cadence, synchronization, and flow control.
- Explain how to measure economics of flow.
- Describe how flow works with agile in the workplace.
- Apply different visualization and mapping techniques.
- Exhibit an ability to utilize various techniques to measure flow.

## Outline of Course

- Introductions
- Overview (TFS, Customer 1<sup>st</sup>, Value)
- Different Perspective of Flow
  - Individual
  - Collective
  - Societal
- Customer 1st

- Customer Profiles
- Value-Added Activities
- Flow in Agile Processes
- Visualization and Mapping Techniques
- Identifying and Managing Queues
- Managing Constraints
- Managing Variability
- Economics of Flow

## 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.

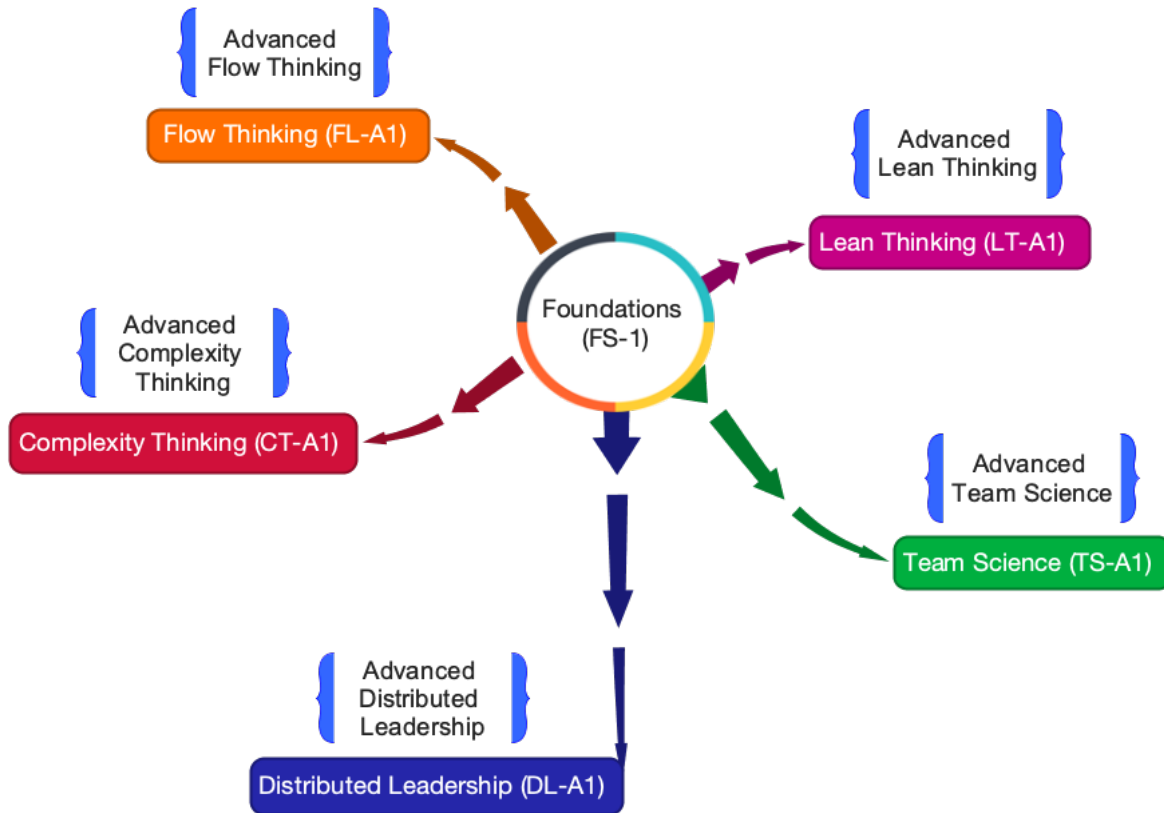


Figure 1: The Flow System Foundations and Advanced Courses

## 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 flow thinking master level courses (FL-M1 through FL-M5), the foundations (FS-1) and flow thinking advance (FL-A1) course must first be successfully completed.

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

- Customer 1st (FL-M1)
- Scrum the Toyota Way (FL-M2)
- Scaling Agility (FL-M3)
- Visualization and Mapping (FL-M4)

- Advanced Flow Metrics (FL-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 Flow Thinking (FL-A1) Advanced course
  - c. Successful completion of all 5 Mastery Flow Thinking courses
    - i. Customer 1st (FL-M1)
    - ii. Scrum the Toyota Way (FL-M2)
    - iii. Scaling Agility (FL-M3)
    - iv. Visualization and Mapping (FL-M4)
    - v. Advanced Flow Metrics (FL-M5)
  - d. Pass Mastery Flow Thinking Accreditation Exam

Courses	Course Completion & Exam	Accreditation
Foundations Course		Foundations Accreditation
Advanced Course Flow Thinking		Advanced Flow Thinking Accreditation
Mastery Flow Courses FL-M1 + FL-M2 + FL-M3 + FL-M4 + FL-M5		Mastery Flow 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 administrated 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/>