

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

COURSE WITH SCRUM AND AGILE FOCUS SETS STUDENTS UP FOR CAREER SUCCESS

MARCH 2018

CASE STUDY



THE UNIVERSITY

The University

Boston University (BU) is a leading private research institution with two primary campuses in the heart of Boston, Massachusetts and programs around the world. With over 33,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 130 countries, nearly 10,000 faculty and staff, 17 schools and colleges, and 250 fields of study, their two campuses are always humming, always in high gear.

The Challenge

Ralph Covino Ph.D., Professor in the Information Systems Department at BU, wanted to reinvigorate the curriculum to be more Agile focused. He understood that having Agile knowledge was increasingly important to recruiters as they looked for jobs post-graduation, and those who had Agile experience during internships were getting a head start over those who didn't. Therefore, he decided to create a new course called Agile Development Methodologies. "My students tell me that if recruiters see them talking Scrum and Agile, they are more likely to get to the next level in the interview on their job quest," said Professor Covino. >

The Solution

Covino put the Agile course together focusing on Scrum and Kanban, utilizing industry standard exercises combined with textbooks and case studies. The class was designed specifically for BU seniors majoring in Information Systems with a business related dual major, i.e. Finance. In the course, they take a look at the differences between Scrum, Kanban, and other agile methods, understanding how to apply them, and reviewing scenarios for each.

The course takes students through a semester-long hands-on project simulating the entire Scrum framework. In addition, the class incorporates industry standard Agile software from Computer Associates. Scrum is simulated in the course through 3-4 Sprints, using all of the Scrum Events: Sprint Planning, Sprint Review, and Sprint Retrospectives, as well as spending time doing Product Backlog Refinement. Each Sprint includes the delivery of at least one production-ready increment. This gives the students some hands-on experience. The course also provides some instruction on how to talk about their knowledge in job interviews. As part of the course, Covino offers students the ability to take the Scrum.org Professional Scrum Master I (PSM I) certification assessment after they take their final exam.

“It was a plus that I could offer the PSM I certification to my students,” said Covino. “The fact that it is knowledge-based and not curriculum-based adds a lot of credibility and is a major plus to students as they enter the job market.”

Results

The course is now offered 2-3 times a semester. It is in very high demand, filling up very quickly. The first time Covino offered the PSM I certification to his classes, 24 out of 25 students passed the exam. “Students now feel better prepared for their interviews,” said Covino. “They are telling me that they are landing great jobs with salaries of \$90k and signing bonuses.” ♦

If you are interested in learning more about this course, please contact Ralph Covino at:

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About the PSM I Assessment and Certification

The Professional Scrum Master™ level I (PSM I) assessment is available to anyone who wishes to validate his or her depth of knowledge of the Scrum framework and its application. Those who pass the assessment receive the industry recognized PSM I Certification to demonstrate their mastery of the content. Although a Professional Scrum training class is not required, it is highly recommended.

About Scrum.org

Based on the principles of Scrum and the Agile Manifesto, Scrum.org provides comprehensive training, assessments, and certifications to improve the professional of software delivery.

Throughout the world, our solutions and community of Professional Scrum Trainers empower people and organizations to achieve agility through Scrum.

Ken Schwaber, the co-creator of Scrum, founded Scrum.org in 2009 as a global organization, dedicating himself to improving the profession of software delivery by reducing the gaps so the work and work products are dependable.

Visit www.scrum.org/Resources for more whitepapers and case studies about the Scrum framework in action.

Test your Scrum knowledge and receive the industry recognized PSM I certification.

Learn more and get certified at www.scrum.org/PSM-Certifications