

**Agile Practitioner: Advanced Scrum Master**

**Course Number:** AGL-164  
**Duration:** 2 days

**Overview**

This advanced course examines some of the more challenging Agile topics facing teams and servant leaders in today’s business landscape. Discussion and lab work will include relevant leadership theories and practical application, organizational and team dynamics as well as pragmatic approaches to keeping Scrum practices fresh and relevant through the process of continuous improvement. Participants will take their Scrum Master skills to the next level while developing potential solutions to the challenges that their teams are facing with like-minded individuals in this highly interactive workshop.

To ensure relevant and profitable learning occurs, attendees will kick off this course by brainstorming many of the real-world issues they face daily as members of an Agile organization. The course then explores a multitude of topics surrounding the Scrum Master role, allowing ample time to discuss potential solutions for the mentioned challenges and areas of concern. The course concludes with a retrospective, providing the next steps servant leaders need to guide their teams to higher levels of performance.

**Prerequisites**

Students should have taken Accelebrate's [Agile Practitioner course](file:////training/agile-practitioner) or have the equivalent experience. A minimum of six months’ experience working on an Agile team is suggested.

**Materials**

All attendees receive comprehensive courseware.

**Software Needed on Each Student PC**

For in-person deliveries, attendees do not need computers for this course. We will provide full classroom setup instructions that will include seating in small groups, with supplies such as flipcharts, sticky notes, markers, and pens for the attendees and a projector and Internet connection for the instructor's laptop.

Online deliveries for this interactive training will use an online meeting platform (such as Zoom, WebEx, GoTo, or Teams) to have face-to-face contact online, including use of breakout rooms for group activities.

**Objectives**

* Learn how to more effectively and efficiently find and remove problems
* Explore tools and techniques to help guide teams to higher levels of performance
* Discover and examine potential solutions to your greatest challenges
* Explore methods to motivate your team, keeping them fresh sprint after sprint
* Learn how to manage thorny communications issues, conflict, and more
* Examine how to encourage and integrate value-driven practices throughout the organization

**Outline**

* Individual and Team Challenges
* Agile Principles Debate
* Communications, Facilitation, and Conflict
  + Communications
  + Facilitation
  + Conflict Management
* Self-Organizing and High-Performing Teams – What Do They Really Mean?
  + Self-Organizing Characteristics
  + How to Drive Self-Organizing Teams?
  + Tuning to High Performance
  + How to Crash Self-Organization and High Performance?
  + Growing New Teams
  + Distributed Teams
  + Integrating External Contractors
* Assessing Team Health
  + Metrics – What Do They Mean?
  + Maturity Models
  + Getting to The Truth
* Architecting the Team Approach
  + Past Results – Future Actions
  + Turning the Team Loose
  + Accountability
* The Product Backlog – Common Problems and Fixes
  + Common Problems – Potential Solutions
  + Coaching the Product Owner
  + Coaching the Team
* Sprint Planning – Getting It Right
  + Common Problems – Potential Solutions
  + Be Prepared
  + Facilitating the Sprint Planning Meeting
  + Distributed Sprint Planning
  + Coordinating with a Waterfall Team
* Effective Retrospectives
  + Flat Retrospectives
  + Getting More out of Retrospectives
  + The Improvement Backlog
  + Following Through and Developing Momentum for Success
* Lean Thinking and Development Process Improvement
  + Thinking Lean to Eliminate Waste
  + Identifying Opportunities to Eliminate Rework
* Driving Organizational Transformation
  + Cultural Transformation
  + Change Management – Project Minded Agile Transformation
* Developing Your Coaching Skills
  + Agile Coaching Styles
  + Climbing the Shu-Ha-Ri Ladder of Attainment
  + Practicing Servant Leadership
* Final Retrospective
  + Next Few Steps
  + Down the Road