

## **APPLYING LEAN PRINCIPLES TO REENGINEER A FINANCIAL MODELING COURSE**

*Zsolt Ugray, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University, 3515 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-3515, 435-797-8132, Zsolt.Ugray@usu.edu*

*Alan Stephens, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University, 3530 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-3530, 435-797-2367, Alan.Stephens@usu.edu*

### **ABSTRACT**

The introduction of a new course and its integration into the existing curriculum pose challenges that may necessitate the revision of course content, topic coverage, delivery choices, and assessment methods. The task is more complex when a course intends to address the interests of students coming from several majors. The audience of our Financial Modeling course included accounting, economics, finance, operations, and MIS majors along with a few MBA students. The varied background and preparation of students presented both a challenge and a unique opportunity to rethink the design and content of the course. Challenges of a difficult job-market for fresh graduates and the expectations of potential employers served as additional background that also influenced the the way we reassessed our design for the course. In this talk we describe how we used ideas of Lean Thinking and related tools from the area of operational excellence to tailor the course for the needs and expectations of the targeted student population.