



Six Sigma Dictionary

Six Sigma the name itself is a bit complex, and so are many other words surrounding this process and training! If you're ready to make sense of key Six Sigma terminology and acronyms, look no further than this Six Sigma Dictionary.

Balanced Scorecard

A one page tool for translating an organization's strategy into operating terms. It has four columns: Vision, Current Initiatives, Business Processes, and Business Results.

Business Improvement Campaign

A leadership initiative to improve the big Ys that determine an organization's success. Six Sigma Business Improvement Campaign elements include scorecards, Team Charters, improvement teams, and integrated business reviews.

DMADV

The most popular Six Sigma framework used within DFSS projects. It is an acronym for Define requirements, Measure performance, Analyze relationships, Design solutions, Verify functionality.

DMAIC

The Six Sigma problem-solving framework for improving business processes. It is an acronym for Define opportunity, Measure performance, Analyze opportunity, Improve performance, and Control performance.

Design for Six Sigma (DFSS)

A proactive approach to building Six Sigma performance into the up front design of a new product, service or process.

Lean Six Sigma

A business improvement framework that integrates the Six Sigma methodology with the cost reduction benefits of the Lean Production approach. Lean production techniques are included as part of the Motorola University Black Belt program.

MINITAB

A software package used to implement Six Sigma and other quality initiatives. It provides data analysis and graphical data presentations and offers many statistical procedures, ranging from simple to advanced.

Sigma level

A metric that counts defects per million opportunities (or DPMO). A metric of Six Sigma equates to 3.4 DPMO.

Six Sigma

Invented by Motorola, Inc. in 1986 as a metric for measuring defects and improving quality. Since then, it has evolved to a robust business improvement methodology that focuses an



organization on customer requirements, process alignment, analytical rigor and timely execution. For more about this process, please visit the [What is Six Sigma?](#) page.

Six Sigma Black Belt

A Six Sigma expert highly skilled in the application of rigorous statistical tools and methodologies to drive business process improvement.

Six Sigma Certification

A confirmation of a person's capabilities with respect to successfully leading and supporting Six Sigma project teams. It entails learning the appropriate skills, passing a written proficiency test, and displaying competency in a real-world environment. Achieving Six Sigma certification is a way to demonstrate your energy and intent to be a leader within the quality profession.

Six Sigma Champion

The Champion typically has day-to-day responsibility for the business process being improved and their role is to ensure the Six Sigma project team has the resources required to successfully execute the project.

Six Sigma Consultant

A company or individual with experience and expertise in Six Sigma business improvement implementations who is hired for a limited time to advise and facilitate Six Sigma implementation.

Six Sigma Consulting

A service provided to organizations to help improve business processes, services, and/or products using the Six Sigma methodology. Guidance may be provided on specific topics or on strategic planning for Six Sigma implementations.

Six Sigma Green Belt

A Six Sigma practitioner trained in the methodology and tools to need to work effectively on a process improvement team. Green Belts may act as team members under the direction of a Black Belt or may lead their own less complex, high impact projects.

Six Sigma Leadership Principles

A set of guiding principles required to help leadership identify the best way to drive results and support teams. The four principles are Align, Mobilize, Accelerate, and Govern.

Six Sigma Master Black Belt

A Black Belt achieves "Master" status after demonstrating experience and impact over some period of time. Master Black Belts address the most complex process improvement projects and provide coaching and training to Black Belts and Green Belts.

Six Sigma Quality

A level of quality that represents only 3.4 defects per million opportunities.

**Six Sigma Software**

A computer program that provides data analysis, project management, resource management and reporting functionality for Six Sigma projects and overall implementations.

Six Sigma Sponsor

A member of the leadership team that is responsible for selecting Six Sigma projects and is ultimately accountable for a project's results.

X's

Often referred to as Big X's, these are the factors or variables that will have the greatest impact on the Big Y's.

Y's

Often referred to a "Big Y's", these are the business results that matter. Big Y's represent measures directly linked to critical customer requirements.