

# WHY BECOME A CERTIFIED SIX SIGMA BLACK BELT?

**A Certified Six Sigma Black Belt (CSSBB)** leads the Six Sigma improvement process. Their experience leading, motivating, and influencing project teams gives them the leadership ability to implement a Six Sigma vision. Black Belts must be comfortable with managing and driving change. It requires finesse to be an enthusiastic change agent without upsetting or unsettling team members or other members of the company.

Black Belts must be clear and effective communicators to succeed in their roles as Six Sigma leaders, mentors, coaches, and trainers. In the course of their day, Black Belts will communicate with employees at all levels of the company. They must be able to speak the language of the C-suite and the shop floor equally well.

## What Are the Core Competencies of a CSSBB?

- Black Belts have a thorough understanding of all aspects of the define, measure, analyze, improve, and control (DMAIC) model in accordance with Six Sigma principles.
- They have basic knowledge of lean enterprise concepts, are able to identify nonvalue-added elements and activities, and are able to use specific tools.
- Advanced understanding of project definition as well as team roles and responsibilities.
- Advanced understanding of the measure phase, including process mapping, data collection plans and techniques, understanding variation, and visually displaying baseline performance.
- Advanced understanding of the analyze phase, including displaying data visually, cause and effect analysis, and verification of root causes.
- Advanced learning of the improve phase, including brainstorming, selecting a solution, and implementation planning.
- Advanced understanding of the control phase, including assessing the results of process improvement, statistical process control overview, and documenting the process.

## What Is the Value to Your Company?

Those who know Six Sigma are knowledgeable in dozens of different methods to reduce costs, increase revenue, streamline business processes and improve employee buy-in, all of which leads to a better bottom line. A Certified Six Sigma Black Belt will:

- Define projects for Green Belts and Yellow Belts.
- Mentor and guide Green Belts and Yellow Belts in the completion of their projects.
- Utilize statistical analysis software to draw valid statistical conclusions, depict relationships, analyze measurement systems, test hypotheses, design experiments, and apply statistical process control.
- Manage more advanced Six Sigma projects and serve as a leader and change agent for projects that span the enterprise.
- Lead organization-wide improvement efforts.

The proper application of Six Sigma methodology can affect many different aspects of a business, from improvements of goods and services to employees investing more into the final product. According to the Six Sigma Academy, Black Belts save companies approximately \$230,000 per project and can complete four to six projects per year. (Given that the average Black Belt salary is \$90,000 in the United States, this is a fantastic return on investment.

## What Is the Value to You?

- An improved skill set qualifies you for more positions within modern business environments.
- Adding Certified Six Sigma Black Belt to your résumé proves your commitment to improving your business acumen and analytical skills, not to mention your commitment to improving the business within which you work.
- Certified Six Sigma Black Belts with three years of experience make an average salary of \$106k per year; compared to those without certification, who make approximately \$94k (national average).\*

\*Salary data can be found in the Quality Progress Salary Survey, December 2016, pp. 14-42.

[asq.org/quality-progress/2016/12/salary-survey/2016-the-complete-report.html](http://asq.org/quality-progress/2016/12/salary-survey/2016-the-complete-report.html)



## Qualifications and Requirements for CSSBB Certification

Six Sigma Black Belt certification requires two completed projects with signed affidavits, or one completed project with a signed affidavit and three years of work experience in one or more areas of the Six Sigma Black Belt Body of Knowledge. You do not need to be a Certified Six Sigma Green Belt.

Work experience must be in a full-time, paid role. Paid intern, co-op, or any other course work cannot be applied toward the work experience requirement.

### Education

Educational waivers are not granted.

## Six Sigma Black Belt Resources and Certification Preparation

- Six Sigma Black Belt Certification Preparation
- *The Certified Six Sigma Black Belt Handbook*
- Certified Six Sigma Black Belt Question Bank

### Recertification Required?

Yes, every three years.

### How to Enroll for Certification

Visit [asq.org/cert](http://asq.org/cert)

# MARKETPLACE INFORMATION

### COMMON JOB FUNCTIONS

Administrator
Auditor
Consultant
Engineer
Executive
Inspector
Manager
Project Manager
Quality Analyst
Senior Level Employee
Supervisor

### COMMON INDUSTRIES

Education
Energy
Government
Healthcare
Information Technology
Manufacturing
Medical Devices
Military
Pharmaceutical
Service
Transportation

### Key Market Trends

- Six Sigma savings can clearly be significant to a company—organizations of all types and sizes are in the midst of a quality revolution. GE saved \$12 billion over five years and added \$1 to its earnings per share with Six Sigma processes. Honeywell (AlliedSignal) recorded more than \$800 million in savings.
- Six Sigma professionals continue to be in demand as companies worldwide seek to cut costs, improve processes, and decrease waste. Countless employers see hiring Six Sigma belts as an investment that offers a high return because they know how to achieve more using fewer resources.