

YOUR JOURNEY
TO LEAN
new information
to guide you

LEAN[™]
certification
ASQ • AME • SHINGO INSTITUTE • SME

sme.org/leancert | certification@sme.org | 800.733.4763

THE INDUSTRY STANDARD

Lean Certification is an industry-leading certification program that provides individuals, companies, and educators with a comprehensive and effective roadmap for professional and workforce development that aligns to industry-recognized standards.

Lean is a journey where your knowledge and experience work together to create a depth of expertise upon which you keep building. It weaves innovative ways of thinking and doing business with real-world applications and results. **Lean Certification not only helps you attain the knowledge, it validates it.**

New Process Improvements

To improve upon the customer experience and continued success of Lean Certification, an extensive validation study was conducted utilizing the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle. We listened to our customers, reviewed the results and recommendations from the study, and took action by implementing new process improvements.

- The **hierarchical requirements** – Bronze, then Silver, then Gold – have been eliminated. Candidates can now obtain certification at the rank that is most appropriate to his/her career, knowledge, and experience. Candidates are still required to pass an exam as part of the overall certification process.
 - **Lean Bronze.** The importance of demonstrating one's lean knowledge and skills to real-world situations will continue through the development of a Portfolio; however, the tactical project requirement has been decreased from five projects to three.
 - **Lean Silver and Lean Gold.** Knowledge and skills are now exhibited through an Accomplishment Record versus a Portfolio. The amount of time and effort required to complete the Accomplishment Record is more manageable. Lean Gold candidates must also pass an interview with a team of Lean Certified professionals.
- 

- **New Lean Certification Blueprints** provide additional information beyond the Body of Knowledge. Where the Body of Knowledge specifies competencies required by lean practitioners, the Blueprint goes a step further by specifying relevant segments of the Body of Knowledge and provides additional detail on the proficiency expected for each Lean Certification.
- An **Essential Body of Work** has been developed for each certification that describes tasks conducted by lean practitioners. It lays the groundwork for understanding and evaluating Lean Certification requirements.

The lean journey is a path to success.

Individuals with Lean Certification are in great demand. Most organizations today recognize the value of lean and look for practitioners who can help them begin or continue their lean journey. Lean Certification provides a path to distinguish yourself and advance in your career.

- Validates your knowledge and application of lean principles and tools.
- Provides a portable, industry-recognized credential that travels with you throughout your career.
- Recognizes you as a lean leader by peers, employers, and recruiters.
- Improves your marketability within your company by demonstrating your commitment to lean processes.

**YOUR LEAN JOURNEY
BEGINS AT**

sme.org/leancert

Your business can only be as lean as your workforce.

Lean has found its way into businesses across every industry for good reason. It's a smarter way of doing business that saves time, money, and resources while reducing waste. Through Lean Certification, your company can:

- Identify workforce development opportunities and improve overall job performance.
- Gain proven results utilizing lean concepts that address key business objectives.
- Standardize the lean practices within your company, regardless of its size or industry.
- Increase your return on investment – over 90% of companies using certification programs see a positive ROI¹
- Demonstrate to customers, suppliers, and investors that you are using best practices to optimize efficiency and provide the greatest value.
- Reduce turnover – companies report a 50% reduction in turnover having certified employees¹

¹ The Manufacturing Institute. "Developing Skilled Workers: A Toolkit for Manufacturers on Recruiting and Training a Quality Workforce."

Lean Outcome Assessment

The Lean Certification exam is used as an outcome assessment by educators to complement their curriculum and provide assurance that their program is aligned with industry-recognized standards in lean. Utilize the lean outcome assessment to:

- Improve understanding of knowledge transfer from you to your classroom.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses within your program.
- Evaluate performance and future curriculum content decisions.
- Review trends over time to identify how curriculum changes affect the outcome of the assessment.
- Give your students the basis toward earning a Lean Certification.

LEAN CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Lean Certification is offered in Bronze, Silver and Gold. Candidates can apply for the Lean Certification rank that is most appropriate to their current work, knowledge, and experience. The new Blueprint and Essential Body of Work for each certification provides competencies and tasks conducted by lean practitioners.

Lean Bronze

To achieve Lean Bronze, you are able to tactically implement lean to drive improvements and measureable results. You deploy and apply lean principles, concepts, methods, and tools within a work cell, work group, and/or value stream. Lean Bronze candidates are required to submit a Portfolio that includes three tactical projects and a reflection statement.

sme.org/bronze

Lean Silver

Lean Silver candidates are capable of transforming and sustaining the lean operation of a complete value stream. They mentor others on both tactical and integrative lean processes and principles. The Accomplishment Record is an important requirement to complete the process. It examines how you applied your lean knowledge and skills to real-world situations along with the results you achieved.

sme.org/silver

Lean Gold

At Lean Gold, you are responsible for the lean transformation of an entire enterprise – an organization systematically working toward a common goal, achieving significant business results. You must have leadership responsibility to others throughout your organization. As with Lean Silver, an Accomplishment Record is part of the process. A Lean Gold candidate must also successfully pass an interview with a team of Lean Certified practitioners.

sme.org/gold




YOUR LEAN JOURNEY

Lean Certification requires an investment of time and energy that rewards you throughout your career. Your first step begins here.

- Visit sme.org/leancert
- Apply for Lean Bronze, Silver, or Gold Certification
- Visit sme.org/prepare
- View the exam preparation tips
- Review the Body of Knowledge, Core Reference Materials, Blueprint, Essential Body of Knowledge, and Competency and Behavior Model
- Consider attending a review program or participating in the Lean Online Review Program
- Connect with a lean practitioner for mentoring
- Schedule and take your exam
- Submit your Portfolio or Accomplishment Record

The Lean Registry

The Lean Registry is a free online networking community that connects lean practitioners and provides a space for collaboration. The registry is a helpful resource for Lean Certification candidates looking to connect with peers and mentors as they begin their lean journey. Connect at sme.org/leanregistry.

- Create a profile and post your needs and expertise
 - Search and connect with other members
 - Subscribe to discussion groups and newsletters
 - Join other communities
 - Search for upcoming events and training
 - View blogs and/or add your own
 - Search and view glossary terms
- 

THE LEAN CERTIFICATION ALLIANCE

The Lean Certification Alliance is comprised of four leading non-profit partners that collectively set the standard for operational excellence and an improved workforce. Together, the American Society for Quality (ASQ), the Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME), the Shingo Institute, and SME are building an expansive community of continuous improvement practitioners. This community leverages relevant resources, such as its Lean Certification Program, to build a workforce that has the skills and know-how to deliver real-world results. sme.org/leanalliance



LEAN[™] *certification*

ASQ • AME • SHINGO INSTITUTE • SME

Individuals Contact:

SME

800.733.4763

certification@sme.org

sme.org/leancert

Companies, Educators, and Industry Groups

Contact:

Tooling U-SME

866.706.8665

info@toolingu.com

toolingu.com

