

## COMM 498 - Field Investigation in Operations Management

By now, you've taken plenty of courses dealing with the theory behind the development of analytical decision-making tools. You may have read about various cases in which companies applied particular tools and principles to key business problems. But maybe you're still left wondering... how do all these principles and ideas actually impact real business processes? How do actual organizations apply operations management in the study, analysis and improvement of real business situations? What possibilities exist for companies right here in Saskatoon to use analytical concepts? Welcome to Comm 498: Field Investigation in Operations Management!

This course provides a hands-on experience for students interested in the practical application of operations management approaches. Student groups will apply quantitative model-building, analysis and process improvement principles and tools to real problems facing local organizations. Particular attention will be paid to setting up a project statement, determining particular project aims, identifying areas for improvement, clearly communicating with client organizations, establishing project milestones, applying appropriate analytical methods, preparing interim and final reports, and presenting results to clients.

There are at least nine major objectives in this course:

1. To provide you with experience in applying operations management principles and tools to the analysis of actual (**and non-trivial**) problems facing real organizations.
2. To showcase successful implementations of operations management principles in diverse, real-life settings... (in other words, **your projects**).
3. To offer you a rigorous and challenging opportunity to work with a deadline while interfacing with an actual organization.
4. To demonstrate that ESB students can contribute real benefits to real projects involving real companies.
5. To present you with the opportunity to improve your writing skills through the preparation of an in-depth final project.
6. To give you the occasion to improve your public speaking abilities through a final project presentation.
7. To allow you to work in professor-selected groups and to appreciate the diversity of perspective and skills that different group members bring to the table.
8. To provide you a tangible project with an actual deliverable that can (hint, hint!) be gainfully employed on your resume.

9. To have an enjoyable and exciting opportunity to get “outside the walls of the university”.

Textbook: None