



Institute for Professional Excellence

Power Skills Series:

Critical Thinking

Stop Making Smart People Mistakes

We live in an era that worships speed and celebrates the confident answer, even when it's wrong.

Brilliant, experienced professionals still waste money, diminish team morale, and repeat the same disasters because they solve the symptom they can see instead of the root cause they can't.

The difference between recurring chaos and permanent fixes isn't intelligence—it's a repeatable process that tests assumptions before they become regrets and turns hunches into objective strategy.

This isn't another dusty critical-thinking lecture. This is 3-hour live-fire decision workshop where you gain the tools that the world's best leaders use to make high-stakes decisions. Tools so effective you'll wonder how you ever decided anything without them.

After completing this program, participants will be able to:

- Drill through layers of noise with the 5 Whys and hit the real root cause of a problem
- Identify hidden assumptions using the RED Model
- Turn subjective debates into objective wins with a Decision Matrix
- Move any solution from idea to successful completion using the IDEAL Framework

Learn more: davenport.edu/ipex/management | 616.233.2589

Critical Thinking Topics

Become a Detective

Rapidly uncover root causes with the 5 Whys and dismantle dangerous assumptions with the RED Model.

- Discover why your brain is wired to jump to exciting-but-wrong conclusions
- Take a real-world recurring headache and use the 5 Whys + RED Model to identify the actual problem

Design the Solution

Turn subjective debates into objective wins and see why the obvious choice usually isn't.

- Apply the IDEAL Framework to a working case study
- Build a Decision Matrix in real-time and watch opinions turn into undeniable rankings

Execution & Risk

Stress-test your solution with pre-mortem thinking: assume it fails and reverse-engineer the most likely killers.

- Identify risks most people miss and build them into the plan upfront
- Leave with a playbook you can use the next time you need an answer right now

Great minds still make terrible calls, because brilliance without process is just expensive chaos.

Who Should Attend

- Leaders, Managers, and team members who are tired of solving the same problem every quarter
- Professionals who want to make decisions so clear that even your harshest critic agrees

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