



Department of Advanced Design  
and Systems Engineering

香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong

# Distinguished ADSE Seminar Series

## Managing the Hyflex Scheduling Activity using Excel Dynamic Arrays

**Dr. Larry J. LeBlanc**

Owen Graduate School of Management,  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA



**15 SEP 2021 (Wed)**  
**10:30 am**

**Seminar Link:** <https://cityu.zoom.us/j/95361286331>

**Meeting ID:** 953 6128 6331



*Enquiry: 3442 8422*  
*All are welcome*

### **Abstract**

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the rapid adoption of remote teaching modalities including hyflex (hybrid flexible) where students attend some class sessions in person and some online. Managing the hyflex course requires faculty to quickly generate four reports, and to update these reports rapidly when the authorities adjust the rules, students add/drop, or the number of course sessions is changed. The creation of these reports is tedious and error-prone, and they need to be automated; however the nature of the task precludes traditional Excel programming approaches. We utilize Excel's new "dynamic array" capabilities (which are available only in Excel 365) to automate the creation and updating of the reports needed to manage the hyflex course. We show how to program the reports and discuss the importance of taking an iterative approach to creating cell formulas that work. To help the reader learn these dynamic array functions, we provide a tutorial on the principles and new concepts of dynamic arrays, explain how they relate to legacy array functions, and present dynamic array functions including SEQUENCE, FILTER, and XLOOKUP.

### **About the speaker**

Dr. Larry J. LeBlanc is a Professor of Operations Management in the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University in the U.S. He was a guest editor of the special issue of the prestigious journal *Interfaces* (currently the *INFORMS Journal on Applied Analytics*) on Spreadsheet Applications of Management Science and Operations Research. Dr. LeBlanc teaches one of the most popular electives in the Owen School, "Spreadsheets for Business Analytics" to MBAs. He has taught advanced Excel to Boeing, FedEx, Nissan North America, Johnson Controls, Community Health Systems, Nu-kote, the Rogers Group, Recovery Green Roofs, and KOSTA. He has received the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence twice in past years. He was an invited speaker at the INFORMS workshop on Teaching of Management Science in Atlanta in July, 2007.

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