



Franklin Dexter M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Division of Management Consulting  
Professor, Departments of Anesthesia and  
Health Management & Policy  
University of Iowa College of Medicine  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1009  
*Tel* 319-621-6360  
*E-mail* Franklin-Dexter@UIowa.edu  
*Consulting* www.FranklinDexter.net

## ***Alternatives to the Intensive Course***

An [intensive course](#) with continuing medical education (CME) credit is given at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, at hosted sites, and online. Specific course dates are listed on the registration pages. There are 20-hours of independent statistics review and reading followed by 35-hours of class time. For lectures and cases, go to [www.FranklinDexter.net/education.htm](http://www.FranklinDexter.net/education.htm). For Dr. Dexter's financial disclosure, curriculum vitae, etc., go to [www.FranklinDexter.net/Contact\\_Info.htm](http://www.FranklinDexter.net/Contact_Info.htm). Participants learn how to apply operations research to problems in operating room and anesthesia group management, including descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics.

The course can be hosted by an organization for 2 to 18 participants. Budget 0.5 days for preparation, 3.5 days for the course, and 1 day for travel to/from the site. At \$1250 per ½ day, the University charge is \$12,500, plus Dr. Dexter's travel expenses. A participant (or two) may attend the preceding course in Iowa complementary (excluding travel), provided the participants manage setup at the host site and proctor groups. They pay the University the regular fee and then that cost is deducted when the hosted course is complete. Detailed specifications are sent for the room's setup, forms for CME credit, projector requirements, etc., to be arranged by the host. When given at a hotel, and if the host prefers, registration will be added to the [course brochure](#) and monthly announcements; the host keeps the collected tuition fees. Download [www.FranklinDexter.net/Contracts/ContractHourly.docx](http://www.FranklinDexter.net/Contracts/ContractHourly.docx).

Alternative #1 uses web conferencing to a site with a team of 2 or 3 participants; the software used is [Zoom](#). The course is available for 2 such sites, if the corporation assigns a dedicated technology professional ("producer") throughout the course, and all course participants use the corporation's web conferencing product daily. There is flexibility in the start times daily if participants are coming from ORs. [The course](#) is setup as 7 half-days. For example, the schedule can (a) match that of the on-site course; (b) 1 weekend and 3 afternoons; (c) 4 afternoons, a 1-week break, and then 3 afternoons; or (d) 2 to 3 afternoons or morning per week for 3 weeks. CME credit is provided. The University's charge is \$10,000, with the agreement: [www.FranklinDexter.net/Contracts/ContractHourly.docx](http://www.FranklinDexter.net/Contracts/ContractHourly.docx).

Alternative #2 is [the course](#) presented over 2 two-day periods. The course and CME credit for each presentation are identical. The periods can be sequential Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday. The University's charge for teaching remains the same: 3.5 days for the course and 0.5 days for preparation. However, the travel time is 2.0 days for 2 round-trips. The University charge, therefore, is \$15,000 plus travel expenses, based on using the [above agreement](#).

Alternative #3 is 8 AM to 1 PM with 4 ten-minute breaks. The [turnover time lecture](#) is presented first, followed by the [use of ordered-priorities for decision-making on the day of surgery](#). This course option is suitable for anesthesiologists, managers, and nurse anesthetists aiming to learn enough to decide whether they want to pay attention to OR management science. This is not a course in operations research or analytics, but in the basic principles of OR management. No prerequisite knowledge is assumed. Participants will need to read two review articles ahead ([click here](#) and [click here](#)), learning [the vocabulary](#). The review will take approximately 6 hours. No CME credit is available. The University's charge is for 0.5 days presenting and 1.0 days travel: \$3750, plus travel expenses, based on using the [above agreement](#). This alternative can be given using web conferencing to an essentially unlimited number of sites simultaneously, provided a producer is provided.

Alternative #4 is one day, 8 AM to 7 PM. The topics are (1) Decision-making on the day of surgery and (2) Case duration prediction including patient arrival time and add-on case scheduling. [Click here](#) for the lectures. This option is suitable for OR and PACU nursing staff who need to follow decisions. This option also is suitable for anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists, and anesthesiology residents who want to understand decision-making at the end of the workday. This one-day option is not the first day of the full course. The prerequisite is having taken any introductory statistics course in any discipline and reviewing many such statistical word problems ahead of time. During the [statistics review](#), participants essentially relearn the material that they once knew. A [review article](#) is learned ahead, as well as a [second article](#) showing application of these topics to working late. This preparation takes approximately 12 hours. In the course, the first 5 of the [cases](#) are used to learn how to apply the knowledge of basic statistics. Teams receive immediate, adaptive feedback from an Excel workbook; for details, [click here](#) and see Table 2, Figure 2, Appendix, and associated text. No CME credit is available. There can be a maximum of 18 participants (i.e., 6 teams of 3). The University's charge is for 1.0 days presenting, 0.5 days preparation, and 1.0 days travel: \$6250, plus travel expenses, based on the [above agreement](#). This alternative can be given to a single site (i.e., team of 2 or 3 participants) remotely; charge \$3750.

Alternative #5 is two days, 8 AM to 7 PM. The topics are (1) Decision-making on the day of surgery, (2) Case duration prediction including patient arrival times, add-on case scheduling, etc. [click here](#), (3) [Planning staffing for existing cases](#), (4) [Reducing turnover times](#), and (5) [Surgeon blocks](#). This option is suitable for participants interested in decision-making on the day of surgery and wanting to understand why decisions need to be made as they are made on the day of surgery. The course is suitable for anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists who have little institutional responsibilities in OR management but know that they have to follow rules and occasionally explain why they are doing what they are doing on the day of surgery (e.g., when taking call at night). This option is not the first two days of the full course, because of its lack of focus on operations research and analytics. [Unlike the full course](#), this option does not satisfy the eight core components of the ACGME systems-based practice competency. Furthermore, from an organizational perspective, it is important to understand that the people with this knowledge should not be ones who then need to "think" about implementation or talk about it publically, other than for decision-making on the day of surgery. Material skipped includes anesthesia and hospital agreements (i.e., labor costs) and implant/disposable costs (i.e., supply costs), which are the principal drivers of organizations' decision making on a long-term basis (e.g., annually). The second day of this alternative #5 has extensive discussion of different "what if" scenarios that arise on the day of surgery. The prerequisite is having taken any introductory statistics course in any discipline and reviewing many such [statistical word problems](#) ahead of time. In addition, review articles for lectures [1 and 2](#) and for lectures [3 and 4](#) are learned ahead, along with corresponding [vocabulary](#) (e.g., using the provided dictionary file). This preparation work will take approximately 15 hours. In the course, the first 6 of the [cases](#) are used to learn how to apply the knowledge of lectures #1-#4 and readings. Teams receive immediate, adaptive feedback from an Excel workbook; for details, [click here](#) and see Table 2, Figure 2, Appendix, and associated text. No CME credit is available. The University's charge is 2.0 days presenting, 1.0 days arranging, and 1.0 days travel: \$10,000, plus travel expenses, based on using the [above agreement](#).