

Part 4 - Swim Lanes and Pools

1.1 Swim Lanes



Notes:

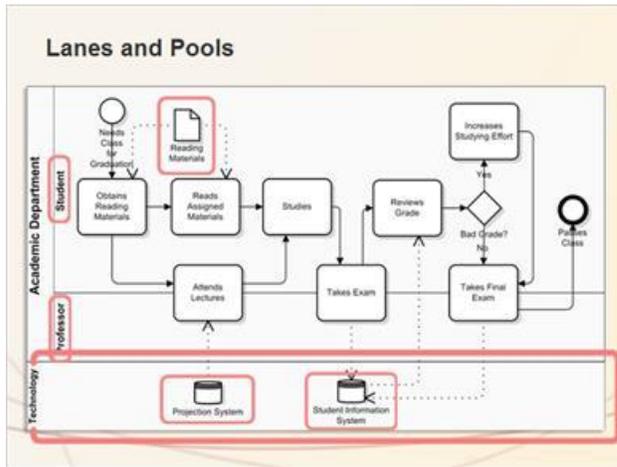
Most of the examples you've seen so far include one or more "swim lanes" or "Lanes" as they are called in BPMN. You've also seen that a Lane partitions activities from other Lanes. This is the primary purpose of a Lane. Review the example on this slide. I used a Lane to represent each of the major organizational units at a college campus. In this example there are five lanes - "administration" and "research", and then "undergraduate", "graduate", and "outreach".

As I develop a process flow that represents campus-wide activities, I can use each Lane in this diagram to indicate the activities that belong specifically to that organizational structure. Notice that I can orient Lanes vertically, as seen here, or horizontally as you have seen previously.

You'll notice that the "undergraduate", "graduate", and "outreach" Lanes are grouped together within a rectangle called "Teaching". This rectangle is called a Pool. It serves as a container for one or more Lanes. A Pool partitions activities from other Pools or Lanes. Can you find one more Pool in this diagram? <Wait 5 seconds> It is the "UW-Madison" Pool, which contains both a pool and several lanes.

Since a Lane and Pool have the same shape, how do you tell the difference between them? Quite simply - a Pool contains one or more Lanes; a Lane does not.

1.2 Lanes and Pools



Notes:

Let's revisit the diagram we've been using throughout this material. Notice that a Pool now exists that contains the Lanes "Professor" and "Student."

A Lane may represent a division, a department, a role, or any other entity that participates in the process. A Lane may also represent a class of things. For example, I often create a "Technology" lane to segregate technology systems from the rest of the process flow, as I have done in this diagram. In the Technology lane, "Projection System" and "Student Information System" are represented by a BPMN Data Store, which looks like a disk drive.

Notice the object that looks like a dog-eared page. This symbol is a Data Object. It is used to represent the storage of data in a non-electronic format. While in this diagram the Data Object represents a book, this object can be used to represent any number of objects that hold information.