

Project Management: Skills for Success - 4 Days

Course 296 Overview

You Will Learn How To

- Plan a project to ensure successful delivery and stakeholder satisfaction
- Apply best practices to plan and run projects using a 6-step project management process
- Implement risk management techniques and deploy mitigation strategies
- Estimate and schedule task work, duration and costs with confidence
- Implement monitoring tools and controls to keep you fully in command of the project
- Recognize and practice the leadership skills needed to run a motivated team

Course Benefits

As an effective project manager, you organize scarce resources, work under tight deadlines, control project change and generate maximum team performance. Through a simulated case study, you learn how to successfully plan, manage and deliver projects. You also learn how to implement project management processes, develop leadership skills and respond to real-world scenarios. At the end of the course, you leave with templates and checklists for use back at the workplace.

Who Should Attend

Individuals who need to strengthen their project management skill sets, those new to project management, or project managers seeking a refresher on fundamental project management knowledge, skills and current tools.

RealityPlus™

Through a multimedia-enhanced four-day simulation, you manage a comprehensive project from beginning to end. You use real-world PC- and paper-based tools and templates to actively present plans, control progress and close the project. Experiential activities include:

- Defining and agreeing on clear project goals and measurable deliverables
- Brainstorming the work breakdown structure
- Estimating task duration and work
- Determining task dependencies and calculating the project schedule
- Assigning and optimizing resources
- Developing risk management plans
- Producing the baseline implementation plan
- Managing and responding to changes
- Evaluating motivation and team-building issues

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Course 296 Outline

Introduction

- Managing the project processes and issues
- Creating a realistic and achievable project plan
- Working within project constraints

Launching Your Project

Applying a project framework for success

- Identifying the project life cycle stages
- Managing the key inputs and outputs
- Balancing typical challenges of project management
- Selecting and applying best practices

Core project leadership skills

- Identifying stages of team development
- Building and managing team effectiveness
- Taking responsibility for the team culture

Building a project charter

- Defining clear project objectives
- Determining and clarifying the goals
- Defining key project deliverables
- Running the objective-setting meeting
- Gaining buy-in from stakeholders

The 6-Step Planning Method

Defining the project workload

- Determining project scope with work breakdown structures (WBS)
- Driving the plan down to manageable task level
- Calculating a first cut of project costs

Building high-confidence estimates

- Effective ways to produce better estimates
- Differentiating between work, duration and resources
- Leveraging three-point estimating to refine accuracy
- Managing the estimating process

Scheduling the project

- Converting WBS to precedence networks
- Determining the critical path tasks
- Creating dependency diagrams
- Calculating the project duration

Creating the project timeline

- Building clear and readable Gantt charts
- Using slack effectively in the schedule
- Setting key milestones to track and control the project

Developing a risk management process

- Identifying the project risks and assumptions
- Evaluating risk impacts
- Strategies for managing risks
- Managing key risks with the Risk Register
- Reducing risks through contingency plans

Effectively matching resources to work

- Identifying the resources your project needs
- Assigning resources to tasks
- Analyzing resource use and costs in the schedule
- Optimizing the use of resources
- Preparing and agreeing on task contracts

Running the Project

Establishing an effective control process

- Establishing change control procedures
- Presenting the project plan for approval
- Setting the baseline schedule

Implementing the plan

- Monitoring real task progress
- Analyzing progress against the baseline
- Picking up warnings of trouble ahead
- Engaging team members to maximize productivity

Tracking and reporting progress

- Tracking planned vs. actual task performance
- Crashing the critical path tasks
- Analyzing the impact of variation to the baseline plan
- Avoiding the 90%-complete trap
- Correcting and optimizing the schedule to achieve project objectives

Leading throughout the project life cycle

- Communicating project status to stakeholders
- Coping with common project scenarios
- Building ownership, motivation and commitment across the team

Successful Project Closure

- Managing systematic project closedown
- The payoff of postimplementation review
- Documenting project and personal lessons learned for process improvement