

Application of Project Management Principles for Student Support Enhancement

Presenter:

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Purpose of this Presentation

- Benefits of Applying Project Management Principles and Instilling a Project Management Mindset into Your Work in an Educational Setting
- How Project Management Principles Can Help Your Future Prospects
- Why and How You Should Incorporate Project Management into Your Educational Journey
- How You Can Make a Project Management Mindset a Part of Your Day-to-Day Activity

How can project management be used in education?



- Project management can be a valuable tool for students.
- It is the practice of planning, organizing, and executing tasks effectively and efficiently.
- Using certain knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques can enable you to achieve specific project goals and objectives: **within a defined scope and timeline.**

Some Fundamental Terms

➤ Project

- A project is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, service, or result (PMI, 2017).

➤ Project Management

- Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities to meet project requirements (PMI, 2017).

➤ Activity

- An activity is an element of work normally found on the WBS that has an expected duration, cost, and resource requirements (PMI, 2017)

Project Management Methodology



- Simply put, A methodology is a description of how things should be done.
- It is a defined combination of logically related practices, methods, and processes that determine how best to carry out your plan.
- It is a set of guiding principles and processes that guide you in organizing, managing, and executing your projects to achieve optimum results.
- For a research project, the methodology you choose determines how work is prioritized and completed.
- Exercise for discussion: *How does project management methodology apply to your work?*

The Principles of Project Management

- The principles of project management are the fundamental rules that should be followed for the successful management of projects.
- In other words, project management principles are the rules, concepts, and techniques you apply to your projects to achieve a successful outcome.
- Exercise for discussion: *How do project management principles apply to your student work?*

Application of Project Management Concepts

- In research, a concept or construct is a generalized idea about a class of objects that has been given a name, an abstraction of reality that is the basis of theory development.
- Every discipline and theory is made up of concepts, e.g. key ideas, keywords, and key phrases (Christina Quinlan, 2011).
- Exercise for discussion: How do project management concepts apply to student work?

Application of project management tools and techniques to research projects

- Project management tools are the means used to assist in getting things done. A tool is a device or mechanism that helps you do things (e.g. Gantt Chart, Network Diagram).
- Project Management techniques are the way the tools are used in getting things done. For example, the EVM technique is a PM performance measurement technique that integrates scope, time, and cost data.
- Exercise for discussion: How do project management tools and techniques apply to student work?

Application of Project Management Tools/Techniques

➤ Planning

- The planning process is a process used to develop objectives, develop tasks to meet objectives, determine needed resources, create a timeline, determine tracking and assessment, and finalize the plan.
- Planning involves making choices about how to use the resources you have and the actions you will take to achieve the choices made.
- Project planning tools include charts and graphs designed to track progress and other actions that allow researchers to manage and improve performance.
- Exercise for discussion: Based on the above, what tools could students use in their work planning process?

The Research Project Lifecycle vs The Project Lifecycle

➤ Project life cycle

- The project life cycle is a collection of phases such as concepts, development, implementation, and closeout.

➤ The research project life cycle

- The research project life cycle is a collection of the different chapters/main sections that make up the research paper.

➤ Exercise for discussion

- How could students apply the project life cycle in their work?

The Research Framework

➤ Research Framework

- A research framework provides an underlying structure or model to support your collective research efforts (theoretical and conceptual frameworks).
 - Research framework is more than an amalgamation of a set of activities.
- In a theoretical framework, you explain the existing theories that support your research, showing that your paper or dissertation topic is relevant and grounded in established ideas.
- Conceptual framework, on the other hand, is designed to assist in theory building and the visual understanding of the exploratory findings.
- While a theoretical framework describes the theoretical underpinnings of your work based on existing research, a conceptual framework allows you to draw your own conclusions, mapping out the variables you may use in your study and the interplay between them.

Gantt Chart and Critical Path Analysis

➤ Gantt Chart

- Gantt Chart is one of the tools that can help you map the project lifecycle and in turn, helps you control project execution.
- A Gantt Chart is a tool used for displaying project schedule information by listing project activities and their corresponding start and finish dates in calendar form.
- It is a versatile tool that can be used with any project.

➤ Critical Path Analysis

- **Critical** path analysis (CPA) is a project network diagramming technique used to predict total project duration (Schwalbe, 2014).
- The critical path analysis is a way of identifying and scheduling all of the critical tasks that comprise your project, as well as their dependencies.

How does a project management mindset benefit students?

- Project management can help learners develop important skills. It gives insights and experience in **planning, organizing, and executing projects.**
- **Setting goals and objectives**
 - Using project management techniques will help students **define clear goals and objectives for their projects.** They will need to identify the desired outcome before they begin and set targets that are measurable rather than unquantifiable.
 - They will need a plan for how they intend to achieve their targets instead of just starting somewhere and hoping for the best.
- **Breaking down tasks**
 - Project management can help students break down complex tasks into smaller, more manageable pieces.

Tracking Progress

- **How to track progress in your research**
 - **Create deliverables and milestones.**
 - **Set realistic, clear, and measurable goals.**
 - **Use project tracking software to keep track of time and tasks.**
 - **Meet regularly with your supervisor or check off achievements (items).**
 - **Have clear deadlines.**
- **Project tracking is the process of monitoring a project's progress against the original project plan.**
- **The goal is to take corrective actions as soon as you spot deviations (or occurrences that may lead to deviations) so you stay on track**

How can you make a project management mindset part of your day-to-day training and education?

- There are two ways to approach making a project management mindset part of your experience.
- You can incorporate it into the way you learn and work, and you can use the methods and methodologies of project management itself in relation to what you are learning.
- You can see how these can help you in your everyday lives and future world of work as well as during your studies using educational exercises.
- By incorporating project management techniques into your educational materials, **you can identify and use the core principles that are relevant to your field** and include topics that relate to these.
- By using case studies and real-world examples you can help to make concepts **more relatable and engaging**. For example, you could use examples from a certain subject to demonstrate how project management principles are applied in practice.
- This can help you to better understand the relevance and importance of project management in reality and not just in an abstract way.

Q & A

Thank You!