

Years ago, project management was obscure, undefined, and misunderstood. Organizational leadership believed that the role could be filled by anyone and appointed random individuals to manage a project. There were no defined methodologies, processes, or tools. Project management was often thought to be unnecessary overhead, but times have changed.

Today, it is an exciting, dynamic, and challenging field. Great project management means so much more than simply delivering a product or service on time and on budget. It unites customers and teams and creates a shared understanding of the vision, goals, and purpose for the project. With good project management, the probability of successful delivery of the product, service, or result is increased. Project managers are leaders, providing inspiration and motivation to a team of professionals. They serve as sources of the truth with respect to the health and status of the project, including the risks as well as opportunities.

In this course, you will get hands-on experience as you develop a selected Course Project comprised of key documents which you will develop weekly as part of your final Course Project. For this, you will create a project charter, a stakeholder management plan, a communications management plan, a project scope, and a project schedule. Also, you will also learn how to allocate resources to project activities, estimate costs, calculate the project budget, and risk management.

Furthermore, you will also learn about the agile methodology and how it is different from the more traditional waterfall methodology for product development. You will share your learning and understanding of these concepts and demonstrate critical thinking in selected discussions and weekly quizzes.

Jump right into Week 1 and get started.

The materials in this course are based on the text, *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide), Sixth Edition*.

Glossary definitions indicated with an asterisk are taken from *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide), Sixth Edition*, Project Management Institute Inc., 2017

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Project management is a rapidly evolving discipline that is concerned with the initiation, planning, implementing, and controlling of projects. Although it may sound simple, most projects are neither planned nor implemented well.

Most failures are directly attributable to poor planning. This is a reason that the field is growing so rapidly and talented project managers are in such high demand.

I hope you are ready for an exciting week as we explore what separates project management from general business management and how projects differ from typical business operations. Remember that project management provides a proven way to set