Leading Successful Projects

Best Practices in Project Management

Modern projects require the input, cooperation and orchestration of a multitude of different disciplines and functional areas, and must often be accomplished with few resources and little time. The ability to plan, schedule and control projects has become an essential leadership capability for all business leaders, not just designated project managers.

Projects are unique activities, and fall outside of typical day-to-day business processes. The ability of organizations to successfully execute these high stakes, "one-off" projects that they haven't done before, requires a thorough understanding of project management principles.

This course provides a framework for effectively managing the uncertainty that's inherent to projects. Participants will organize and kick off a project, create a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), monitor planning and budgets, manage the critical path of a project, and bring a project to a successful completion.

In addition, learners will practice:

- Leading a project from concept to reality
- Operating effectively as a project team member and project leader
- Negotiating effectively with project team members an clients
- Evaluating the key elements of successful project management

Developed in Partnership with

PennState
Smeal College
of Business

Learners will:

- Manage a project from plan to delivery
- Apply project management principles to organizational strategy
- Apply negotiation and communication skills to bring a project to a successful outcome

Authors

Dr. Edward T. Reutzel
Emeritus Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management at Penn State Smeal College of Business

Dr. David J. Huff
Clinical Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management and Visiting Professor, Eccles School of Business, University of Utah and Stern School of Business, New York University

Course Outline

WEEK 1

The Case for Project Management

What Is a Project?

The Project Lifecycle

The Project Manager

Breakout Group Meeting

WEEK 2

Project Initiation and Planning

Project Initiation

Work Breakdown

Mapping the Project

Breakout Group

WEEK 3

Project Execution

Project Challenges

Monitoring & Control

Closeout & Review

Breakout Group