

Title: Information Systems Project Management

Catalog Description

This course discusses the processes, methods, techniques and tools that organizations use to manage their information systems projects. The course covers a systematic methodology for initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing projects. This course assumes that project management in the modern organization is a complex team-based activity, where various types of technologies (including project management software as well as software to support group collaboration) are an inherent part of the project management process. This course also acknowledges that project management involves both the use of resources from within the firm, as well as contracted from outside the organization.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Initiate, specify, and prioritize information systems projects and to determine various aspects of feasibility of these projects.
- Understand the foundations of project management, including its definition, scope, and the need for project management in the modern organization.
- Identify the phases of the project management lifecycle.
- Manage project teams, including the fundamentals of leadership and team motivation.
- Manage project communication, both internal to the team, and external to other project stakeholders.
- Initiate projects, including project selection and defining project scope.
- Understand the techniques and tools for managing project schedules.
- Manage project resources, including human resources, capital equipment, and time.
- Manage project quality, including the identification of the threats to project quality, techniques for measuring project quality, and the techniques for ensuring project quality is achieved.
- Manage project risks, including the identification of various project risk types and the techniques for ensuring project risks are controlled.
- Manage the project procurement process, including understanding external acquisition and outsourcing, as well as the steps for managing external procurement.
- Manage project execution, including monitoring project progress and managing project change, and appropriately documenting and communicating project status.
- Control projects, through information tracking, and cost and change control techniques.
- Close projects, including administrative, personnel, and contractual closure.
- Understand the mechanisms for dealing with legal issues in complex project contexts.

Topics

- Introduction to Project Management
 - Project management terminology
 - Project failures and project success

- Unique features of IT projects
 - What is project management?
- The Project Management Lifecycle
 - What is the project management lifecycle?
 - Project management and systems development or acquisition
 - The project management context
 - Technology and techniques to support the project management lifecycle
 - Project management processes
- Managing Project Teams
 - What is a project team?
 - Project team planning
 - Motivating team members
 - Leadership, power and conflict in project teams
 - Managing distributed global project teams
- Managing Project Communication
 - Managing project communication
 - Enhancing team communication
 - Using collaboration technologies to enhance team communication
- Project Initiation and Planning
- Managing Project Scope
 - Project initiation
 - How organizations choose projects
 - Activities
 - Developing the project charter
- Managing Project Scheduling
 - What is project scheduling?
 - Common problems in project scheduling
 - Techniques for project scheduling
- Managing Project Resources
 - What are resources?
 - Types of resources (human, capital, time)
 - Techniques for managing resources
- Managing Project Quality
 - What is project quality?
 - What are the threats to project quality?
 - How can we measure project quality
 - Tools for managing project quality
- Managing Project Risk
 - What is project risk?
 - What are the threats to project risk?
 - Tools for managing project risk
- Managing Project Procurement
 - Alternatives to systems development
 - External acquisition
 - Outsourcing
 - Steps in the procurement process

- Managing the procurement process
- Project Execution, Control & Closure
 - Managing Project Execution
 - Monitoring progress and managing change
 - Documentation and communication
 - Common problems in project execution
- Managing Project Control & Closure
 - Obtaining information
 - Cost control
 - Change control
 - Administrative closure
 - Personnel closure
 - Contractual closure
 - Project auditing
- Project Management Standards
 - Project Management Body of Knowledge
 - PMI standards
 - IEEE standards

Discussion

- The core course in information systems project management is primarily focused on initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing information systems projects. Project charters, schedules, resource assignments, communication, risk and quality control plans, as well as an understanding of leadership and group processes are all tools which can enhance effective project management. This course will teach the student methods that allow them to manage projects resources, including those internal and external to the organization.
- The course specification intentionally leaves discussion regarding specific methods and approaches unanswered. While there are common techniques to project management institutions, programs will still have the ability to make local decisions regarding specific tools and techniques based on the capabilities of their faculty, their available resources, and the needs of the companies hiring the students.
- Using a course project to teach the concepts in this course is highly recommended.
- The course should be taught taking into account that the context for information systems projects is inherently global.