Project Title: Personal Expense Tracker

Objective:

- Develop a Python-based application that allows users to track their personal expenses by recording, categorizing, and analyzing their spending patterns.

Phase 1: Understanding Requirements and Basic Design

Key Points:

- Define the main features:
- Add expenses with details (amount, date, category, description).
- View expenses.
- Generate basic reports of spending.
- Design the program flow:
- Use a command-line interface to interact with the user.
- Outline the basic functions: add_expense(), view_expenses(), save_expenses(), and load_expenses().

Phase 2: Implement Core Functionality

Objective: Develop the core functionality of the application.

Tasks and Code:

1. Adding an Expense:

```
expenses = [] # List to store expense entries
def add_expense():
    amount = float(input("Enter the expense amount: "))
    date = input("Enter the date (YYYY-MM-DD): ")
    category = input("Enter the category (e.g., Food, Travel): ")
    description = input("Enter a brief description: ")
    expense = {
        'amount': amount,
        'date': date,
        'category': category,
        'description': description
    }
    expenses.append(expense)
   print("Expense added successfully!\n")
```

2. Viewing Expenses:

```
def view_expenses():
   if not expenses:
      print("No expenses recorded yet.")
      return
```

```
print("\nAll Recorded Expenses:")

for i, expense in enumerate(expenses, 1):
    print(f"{i}. Amount: {expense['amount']}, Date: {expense['date']}, "
        f"Category: {expense['category']}, Description: {expense['description']}")

print()
```

Phase 3: Data Storage and Retrieval

Objective: Save expenses to a file and load them when the program starts.

1. Saving Expenses to a File (CSV format):

Phase 4: Data Analysis and Visualization

Objective: Add basic data analysis and visualization using Matplotlib.

1. Analyze Expenses by Category:

```
from collections import defaultdict

def analyze_expenses():
    category_totals = defaultdict(float)
    for expense in expenses:
        category_totals[expense['category']] += expense['amount']

print("\nExpense Summary by Category:")

for category, total in category_totals.items():
        print(f"{category}: {total}")

print()
```

Phase 5: Testing and Debugging

Objective: Ensure the application functions correctly.

- Testing: Test each function individually to ensure correct outputs.

- Debugging: Handle potential errors such as incorrect input formats or file read/write issues.

Putting It All Together: Main Program

```
def main():
    load_expenses()
   while True:
       print("Expense Tracker Menu:")
       print("1. Add Expense")
       print("2. View Expenses")
       print("3. Save Expenses")
       print("4. Analyze Expenses")
       print("5. Visualize Expenses")
       print("6. Exit")
        choice = input("Enter your choice: ")
        if choice == '1':
            add_expense()
        elif choice == '2':
           view_expenses()
        elif choice == '3':
            save_expenses()
        elif choice == '4':
```

```
analyze_expenses()

elif choice == '5':
    visualize_expenses()

elif choice == '6':
    print("Exiting the application. Goodbye!")
    break

else:
    print("Invalid choice. Please try again.\n")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```