

Learning Journal Template

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/Mutasimur/SOEN-6481_Software-Project-Management

Dates Range of activities: 5th October – 2nd November

Date of the journal: 2nd November

Key Concepts Learned: This week, we studied *Software Project Planning* (Chapter 6) and *Project Monitoring & Control* (Chapter 7). We learned how to create and manage project schedules, budgets, and work breakdown structures (WBS) to break projects into manageable tasks. We also explored top-down and bottom-up planning methods and how to use Earned Value Management (EVM) to track a project's progress against the schedule and budget. Other important topics included identifying critical tasks and managing changes to keep the project on track.

Application in Real Projects: The planning and monitoring techniques we learned are very useful for real-world projects. For example, using WBS and resource allocation helps simplify complex projects by organizing tasks and assigning resources more efficiently. EVM can help project managers stay aware of any schedule or budget issues, which is important for preventing unexpected changes in the project.

Peer Interactions: Discussions with classmates helped me see real-life challenges with EVM, especially in cases where projects run behind schedule or go over budget. One peer's experience with delayed tasks reinforced the need for accurate planning and frequent monitoring. We also discussed different ways to handle scheduling issues, which gave me a better understanding of how to manage task dependencies and resources.

Challenges Faced: One of the biggest challenges was accurately estimating the time and resources needed for tasks, as even small miscalculations can affect the whole project. Understanding all parts of EVM was also tricky because it requires detailed data and careful calculations.

Personal Development Activities: To improve, I read more about EVM and critical path planning, especially focusing on real-life examples to see how they work. I also practiced using Gantt charts and scheduling tools to get more familiar with project planning.

Goals for the Next Week: Next week, I want to focus on risk management, learning more about how to spot and handle risks early in a project. I also plan to improve my understanding of how to measure resource use, as this is important to make sure resources are neither overworked nor sitting idle.