

Final Reflections - Learning Journal

Student Name: Venkatasubrahmanyamanisaisri Harshini Bandaru

Student ID: 40264171

Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL: <https://github.com/Sriluharshini/SOEN-6841-SPM>

Date of the journal: 21 November 2024

Overall Course Impact:

These few months of the Software Project Management course have broadened my understanding of managing software projects from inception to closure. I learned to approach projects systematically, integrating theoretical models and practical tools.

For example, the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) taught me how to decompose complex projects into manageable components, while the Critical Path Method (CPM) highlighted how to identify critical tasks that influence the overall timeline. The iterative development models like SCRUM and Extreme Programming emphasized flexibility in project execution, and the lessons on project closure underscored the importance of archiving project deliverables and documenting lessons learned.

This course fundamentally shifted my perspective by helping me realize that successful project management is not just about timelines and deliverables but also about creating value, fostering collaboration, and ensuring continuous improvement.

Application in Professional Life:

Having worked as a Backend Application Developer at Accenture for two years, my role primarily involved coding tasks assigned through JIRA for specific sprints. At that time, I was unaware of the background project planning work or how tasks were allocated, estimated, or prioritized. This course filled that gap by providing insights into the planning and scheduling processes before a task reaches the development team.

For instance:

- I now understand how WBS breaks down a project into smaller, actionable components, ensuring tasks are aligned with project goals.
- Learning about Critical Path Method (CPM) and resource allocation has provided me with tools to evaluate how task dependencies are managed and how bottlenecks are identified.
- The iterative development insights, especially SCRUM techniques, helped me to understand the rationale behind sprint planning and how incremental deliverables align with broader project objectives.

These skills will enable me to transition from merely completing assigned tasks to actively participating in project planning and management. For example, in my future roles, I could contribute to estimation meetings, planning sprints, and monitoring project progress using tools like JIRA.

Peer Collaboration Insights:

Peer collaboration with classmates and teammates played a vital role in enhancing my learning throughout the course. Peer discussions revealed practical interpretations, such as the application of iterative models in real-world projects, and exposed me to diverse perspectives on resource allocation and dependency management.

For instance, while discussing the Critical Path Method, I learned how peers handled task prioritization in their projects, which enriched my understanding. Collaborative activities like project deliverables (1 and 2) also mirrored real-world team dynamics, teaching me the importance of clear communication, active listening, and conflict resolution.

Additionally, receiving and providing constructive feedback from my project mates helped me refine my approach to problem-solving and emphasized the value of collective learning.

Personal Growth:

This course has significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth. In my role at Accenture, I focused exclusively on executing tasks without exposure to the broader project management process. Through this course, I have developed a clear understanding of the behind-the-scenes planning and monitoring work that ensures project success.

My ability to estimate task durations, analyse risks, and adapt to changing project requirements has improved substantially. Tools like Gantt charts, activity networks, and dashboards have strengthened my organizational and time management skills, enabling me to visualize project progress more effectively.

Additionally, learning about Earned Value Management (EVM) has helped me track project budgets and timelines—a competency I can use to take on more leadership responsibilities in future roles. On a personal level, I have become more detail-oriented, proactive, and confident in handling technical and managerial aspects of a project, making me a more capable and resilient project manager in future. This growth positions me well to transition into roles that involve both development and project management responsibilities, ensuring I contribute to projects holistically.