

Final Reflection: SOEN 6841 – Software Project Management

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

Course: SOEN 6841

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Course Impact

Before this course, my view of project management was rigid. I saw it as a checklist of tasks. SOEN 6841 changed that notion, replacing it with a dynamic framework where planning, requirement engineering, control, risk management, etc are as critical as timelines. I previously viewed risk management as reactive, but the course's emphasis on proactive risk assessment strategies shifted my mindset. Learned about the necessity of software development frameworks, its pros and cons. In addition, budget planning, mitigating risk and many more. Some of the key transformations include:

- Agile: Transitioning from a waterfall-method advocate to embracing iterative workflows, recognizing that adaptability drives innovation.
- Ethical: Realizing that transparency in decision-making (e.g., openly addressing budget trade-offs) builds stakeholder trust, a lesson absent in my prior coursework.
- Planning: Integrating tools like WBS and RACI matrices to balance structure with flexibility, a stark contrast to my earlier fragmented approach.

Professional Application

The course equips me to excel in roles like Scrum Master. For instance:

- Scenario 1: Leading a fintech app rollout, I'd employ agile retrospectives to iteratively address user feedback. Challenge: Balancing rapid iterations with regulatory compliance (e.g., financial data security standards). The course's risk management frameworks would guide prioritization without compromising deadlines.
- Scenario 2: During a high-stakes product launch, using earned value management (EVM) would track budget adherence. Challenge: Stakeholder resistance to transparent cost reporting. Lessons on ethical communication would help justify transparency as a trust-building strategy.

Long-Term Opportunities:

Mastery of these skills positions me for leadership roles, such as Director of PMO, where I can architect organization-wide strategies. For example, in industries like AI or healthcare, interdisciplinary coordination is paramount. The course's emphasis on cross-functional collaboration prepares me to bridge gaps between engineers, clinicians, and compliance teams turning fragmented workflows into cohesive systems.

Peer Collaboration

Collaborative projects were microcosms of real-world teamwork. In one simulation, our team faced a deadlock over prioritizing features for an e-commerce platform. A peer's data-driven proposal to prioritize user authentication (based on security breach risks) clashed with another's

focus on UI/UX. By applying conflict resolution techniques from the course, we merged both approaches, designing a secure yet intuitive login flow. This experience taught me that diversity in thought isn't a hurdle, it's the engine of innovation.

Additional insights:

- Feedback Loops: Peer reviews of my Gantt charts revealed my tendency to overcomplicate timelines. Simplifying them improved team clarity.
- Global Perspectives: Collaborating with international peers highlighted cultural nuances in communication e.g., direct vs. indirect feedback styles which I'll navigate in global projects.

Personal Growth

- Critical Thinking: Early in the course, I struggled with ambiguity in open-ended case studies. Now, I thrive in such environments, using root-cause analysis to dissect problems.
- Communication: Presenting sprint plans taught me to tailor messages using visual aids for developers and ROI metrics for executives.
- Resilience: Juggling coursework with a part-time job initially overwhelmed me. Adopting timeboxing techniques from the course helped me balance priorities, a skill I now apply in freelance projects.

Areas for growth:

- Negotiation Skills: I aim to master stakeholder negotiation frameworks to better align competing interests.
- Global Project Management: I plan to pursue certifications in cross-cultural management to lead distributed teams effectively.