Final Journal

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Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/honey25s/Learning_Journals_SPM

Dates Rage of activities: 16 January, 2025 to 30 March, 2025

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Overall Course Impact:
The Software Project Management course has significantly improved my understanding of managing software projects efficiently. Prior to completing this course, I had a disintegrated understanding of project management, with a primary emphasis on coding and development. However, this course has given me a comprehensive view of the entire software development lifecycle, from the project initiation to closure.
I learnt many software lifecycle concepts throughout the course which are:

- Project initiation processes(Project objective, scope and charter)
- Requirements documentation
- Cost estimation techniques(COCOMO, Delphi and FPA)
- Risk analysis and management
- Configuration management
- Project planning(WBS, Resource allocation)
- Project monitoring and control and the processes involved
- Project closure activities
- CMMI framework
- Functional and Nonfunctional requirement gathering
- Software Design
- Software construction management
- Software testing, release and the documentation

Understanding how software process management and requirement management create the foundation for a successful project was the most crucial lesson for me.
In addition, I've gained a greater understanding for project closure, which includes assessing project success, documenting lessons learned, and assuring long-term maintainability. Understanding how to assess project outcomes and apply those insights to future projects is something I will carry forward in my career.

Application in Professional Life:
My professional job as a software developer would greatly benefit from the knowledge I have acquired in this course. Understanding project estimation techniques such as function point analysis and story points will help me provide more realistic timelines and resource allocations in future projects. Risk management tools, such as risk assessment matrices and mitigation plans, will be critical in determining potential project issues and developing proactive solutions.

Furthermore, having proficiency in configuration management would improve my capacity to preserve uniformity across various development environments, guaranteeing seamless releases and deployments. In a large-scale corporate software development project, where accurate planning, estimating, and risk management can be the difference between success and failure, this knowledge would be particularly helpful.
In the long run, this course has given me the opportunity to pursue technical project management positions where I can bridge the gap between development teams and business stakeholders. The ability to examine software processes, increase efficiency, and maintain quality will also be useful in leadership situations where strategic decision-making is critical.

Peer Collaboration Insights:
Working together with classmates was one of the most beneficial aspects of this course. Group activities and discussions offered a variety of viewpoints on the problems and solutions of software projects.
Engaging with peers allowed me to improve my problem-solving technique by taking into account other perspectives. Peer evaluation on project management tactics enabled me to identify both strengths and limitations in my planning approach. The interactions also highlighted the value of stakeholder participation, dispute resolution, and modification in software team management.
Beyond conversations, peer interactions in project documentation activities were very insightful. Working on our software project lifecycle stages strengthened the notion that software project management is not just about individual contributions but also about effective teamwork and communication. Working together on risk assessment reports, project plans, and progress reports enhanced my capacity to organize and effectively convey information. We were able to effectively assign work, monitor deliverables, and guarantee adherence with project objectives through group meetings.

Personal Growth:
The course has significantly contributed to my personal growth by broadening my views on project development and providing insights on how to tackle risks. My approach to solving complicated issues has grown more methodical, putting more emphasis on planning and anticipation than simply execution. I now know how to successfully measure progress, create attainable targets, and divide a project into small parts.
The course has increased my capacity to think critically about software processes and how they affect project performance. I've also improved my reporting and documentation abilities, which are critical for efficient project collaboration. My ability to communicate complicated information concisely has improved as a result of writing project reports and deliverables.
By learning about project monitoring and closure, I now understand how to measure project success through key performance indicators and continuous process improvements.
Overall, I feel more comfortable overseeing projects that include more than simply coding now that I understand how crucial leadership and strategic decision-making are to software development. In addition to theoretical knowledge, this course has given me useful skills that I can use in real-world situations, which has improved my effectiveness and strategic thinking as a software engineer.