

## Learning Journal 4

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**Course:** SOEN 6841

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/swetasarat2000/Learning-Journal-SOEN-6841>

**Date Rages of activities:** 23 Feb to 15 Mar

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### Key Concepts Learned

Since I had previously self-studied Chapters 7 and 8, attending the professor's lecture further solidified my understanding. The in-class discussions and examples provided a clearer picture of how these concepts apply in real-world scenarios.

**Chapter 7:** This chapter focused on Project Monitoring and Control, emphasizing how a project's baseline serves as a benchmark for tracking progress. We explored different techniques to monitor project health, such as Earned Value Management (EVM) for cost and schedule tracking, as well as methods to manage deviations through corrective actions. The distinction between monitoring (data collection) and control (taking action) was particularly insightful, especially in understanding how minor variances, if left unchecked, can impact project timelines and budgets significantly.

**Chapter 8:** The discussions around Project Closure highlighted the importance of finalizing deliverables, ensuring version control for source code, and archiving project metrics for future reference. A key takeaway was the role of lessons learned in refining future project execution. The professor's examples of failed projects that lacked proper closure reinforced why documentation and structured wrap-up processes are crucial for long-term efficiency.

Revisiting the earlier chapters provided a strong foundation in understanding project expectations for this course. Concepts like Work Breakdown Structures, estimation techniques, and risk management played a crucial role in shaping our project pitch, allowing our team to develop a well-structured and creative solution.

### Application in Real Projects

What I did this time:

- **Applying Project Monitoring to My Internship Project:** After learning about Project Monitoring and Control, I decided to look at the project I worked on during my internship through this lens. I realized that if we had used Earned Value Management (EVM) to track progress, we could have caught delays earlier instead of scrambling towards the end. It also made me think about how better scope control could have helped avoid last-minute changes that made things more stressful than they needed to be.
- **Seeing Our Project Like a Real-World One:** Working on our project pitch while learning about Project Monitoring and Closure made everything feel more real. We weren't just doing a school project, we were thinking about milestones, risks, and how it could actually be implemented, just like in an organization. It gave me a new perspective on how companies track progress and ensure projects don't just get completed but are also sustainable.

### Peer Interactions

- **Learning from Other Teams' Pitches:** After the project pitch presentations, I had the chance to connect with peers to understand the different approaches they took in their projects. It was interesting to see how some teams applied Work Breakdown Structures (WBS) to break tasks efficiently, while others focused on Earned Value Management (EVM) to track cost and schedule performance. These discussions gave me new ideas on how structured planning can impact project execution and how different teams prioritized their resources based on project scope.
- **Post-Lecture Discussions on Project Closure:** After the lecture on Project Monitoring and Closure, we had an engaging discussion about how these concepts applied to past projects. Some peers shared how they had handled version control and archiving in their previous internships, and it was interesting to hear what they

would have done differently if they had known about lessons learned documentation earlier. These conversations made me realize how proper closure practices can save time and effort when transitioning between project phases.

### Challenges Faced

- **Understanding Different Approaches to Feasibility Analysis:** While discussing with peers after their project pitches, I noticed that some teams approached the feasibility analysis differently than we did. Their methods for evaluating technical and economic feasibility were structured in a way that seemed more streamlined, which made me reflect on whether our approach could have been more efficient. Analyzing these differences and figuring out what would work best in real-world scenarios was something I had to spend extra time thinking about.
- **Crafting an Engaging 4-Minute Pitch:** One of the biggest challenges during this period was preparing for the project pitch. With only four minutes to present, we had to make every second count. My team and I spent a lot of time brainstorming how to make the pitch engaging while ensuring we covered all key points like problem statement, feasibility, and implementation plan without rushing through them. It was tough finding the right balance, but the process helped me understand how to communicate ideas concisely and effectively, a skill that will be useful beyond this course.

### Personal Development Activities

- **Practiced Concise and Impactful Presentations:** While preparing for the project pitch, I worked on refining my ability to deliver key points clearly and effectively within a limited time. This helped me improve my public speaking and storytelling skills, which are essential for presenting ideas in professional settings.
- **Explored Feasibility Documentation Best Practices:** After discussing with peers about different feasibility analysis methods, I researched industry best practices for writing technical and economic feasibility reports. This gave me a better understanding of how feasibility studies guide project decision-making in real-world scenarios.
- **Reviewed Case Studies on Project Monitoring and Closure:** To reinforce what I learned in class, I went through case studies on project monitoring techniques and lessons learned documentation in software projects. This helped me see how companies track progress and handle project closure efficiently.

### Goals for the Next Week

- **Review Chapters 9 and 10 Once Posted:** Since the professor mentioned that the upcoming chapters are from the undergraduate syllabus, I plan to go through the lecture slides as soon as they are available to ensure I understand the key concepts before class.
- **Work on the Project Feasibility Document:** With the submission deadline approaching, my team and I will focus on refining our feasibility document. I aim to apply the insights gained from peer discussions and research to ensure our analysis is structured and practical.
- **Explore Real-World Applications of Course Concepts:** To strengthen my understanding, I plan to watch YouTube videos and industry case studies on how companies implement project monitoring, feasibility analysis, and closure strategies in real-world projects. This will help me bridge the gap between theory and practice, making me more industry-ready.

This period has been a mix of applying project management concepts in a real-world setting through our project pitch and refining my understanding of monitoring, control, and closure through in-class discussions. Engaging with peers after their presentations and during post-lecture discussions helped me see different ways of approaching feasibility analysis and project execution. Working on an engaging and structured pitch reinforced the importance of clear communication and strategic planning. I'm excited to continue bridging the gap between theory and practice.