Master of Science in Project Management Degree Program: Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Tools

Student Assessment

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the time of graduation from the Master of Science in Project Management Degree Program, students will:

1. Demonstrate a firm command of the nine project management knowledge areas, as identified in the *Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge*.
2. Communicate effectively electronically, verbally, and in writing.
3. Exhibit the interpersonal skills which will lead to success in work with other individuals and as team members, particularly teams in the project environment.
4. Enhance comprehension of and sensitivity to diversity in the project environment, especially in virtual team situations.
5. Identify and apply business ethical principles in the project environment.
6. Integrate effectively all concepts of project management and successfully articulate a complete project from initiation to closing.

Evaluation Criteria- Assessment Tools:

**Tool 1:** Complete 30-36 graduate credits of required courses in the Project Management Masters Program and maintain a 3.00 grade point average (coursework and GPA requirement)

The Master of Science in Project Management is earned upon the successful completion of 30 - 36 graduate credits: 15 credits of core requirement courses up to 12 credits of business foundation courses, and not fewer than 9 elective credits. Graduate students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average throughout the program.

**Tool 2/3:** Coursework completion with a 3.0 GPA or higher

In order to earn the degree, all graduate students will complete their coursework with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. This demonstrates proficiency in the course content undertaken by each during their tenure in the program.

**Tool 4:** Post-course and instructor evaluation survey

Course evaluations designed to quantitatively measure course quality and instructor’s teaching effectiveness are conducted at the end of each semester on all online courses in the masters program. Students are asked to complete the standardized questionnaire after completing each course. In addition to the quantitative standardized form, a comments section is provided for students to write narrative written reviews for each course taught.
**Tool 5: Portfolio of Student Writing**

While assembly of a formal portfolio is not required to earn the degree, writing as both an instrument of learning and an assessment tool is a significant component of nearly every course in the program. In particular, formal writing is emphasized in the required Organizational Communication course, and business and project documentation is emphasized in the capstone project.

**Tool 6: Complete Capstone Research Paper (research and writing requirement)**

All graduate students must complete the core capstone course, PM 7840 Project Management Capstone, during the last semester of the program or sooner as approved by the academic advisor. The completion of this project will demonstrate that the graduate has internalized and can competently function in a project environment using the various knowledge areas and processes recognized by the project management discipline.

**Tool 7/8: Post-Graduate Questionnaire (graduate perspectives on the quality of education they received) and Career Advancement of Graduates**

Students are surveyed immediately after graduation to obtain information on what advancements they have made in employment as the result of earning the degree. The questionnaire also gives graduates an opportunity to rate the overall rigorosity of the courses, the effectiveness of the online course design, the advising process, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the administrative and student support services.

**Tool 8/9: Project Management Alumni Survey (placement of graduates in advanced competitive occupations)**

Students are surveyed one year after graduation to obtain information on what advancements they have made in employment as the result of earning the degree.

**Tool 10: Attainment of the Project Management Professional credential**

The PMP® credential is widely recognized in the discipline and the business environment as a sign of excellence in project management practice. Students who attain the PMP® credential during or following their degree studies can attribute some their success to their coursework in this program.