

Executive Summary for Original Work: Project Reflection

I have completed my Original Work - which of three iterations of a simulation from SimProject to simulate the role of a project manager. The experience to work with a college professor to really grasp and develop the skills that I have learned is just tremendous.

Original Work: Reflection 3

Date: December 9, 2020

Subject: My Overall SimProject Simulation Project & Experience Reflection

Reflection:

After completing my Original Work - which consisted of three iterations of a simulation from SimProject to simulate the role of a project manager. My Original Work has really shown me how project managers think and work in business - the experience was very eye-opening to say the least.

After completing my Original Work, I have been able to gain a better understanding of the skills of a project manager to enhance my knowledge. I really got to know the ins-and-outs of the work of a project manager (even though my experience was simulated). Some of the skills I have learned over the course of my Original Work include, but are not limited to: resource handling, budget creation, and project management chart utilization.

When it comes to resource handling, I have learned that I must take the opinions of my resources as the project progresses to ensure the success of the project. In all of the iterations, I improved my attention towards my team. After analyzing the different suggestions made by my team, I carefully decided how to proceed on the simulated project. In the first iteration, I didn't want to put any of my team on overtime, but as I found

out that decision led to a severely delayed completion date of the simulated project. In the second iteration, I decided to give my resources some overtime and took their first suggestion, and this saved me more time than I had anticipated (and it also saved me a lot more money in the end). As for the third iteration, I took a different suggestion (one that only required overtime only when I deemed it necessary), and this worked better for my resources, but the schedule did get delayed - but only slightly - compared to the second iteration. I can definitely say that I improved this skill not only through this simulation, but also in the real world - and there is a person who can attest to this.

As for the budget creation, I learned how to make the different plans, such as the Resource Plan, Risk/Reserve Plan, Recognition Budget, Stakeholder Plan, and the Training Plan. All of these plans together would make up the budget that would be used throughout each of the iterations. In the first iteration, my performance of the project showed that I had properly created the budget - but I had no knowledge of the whole simulation - and my final costs exceeded the budget. However in the second iteration, I created a lower planned budget than the previous iteration, but this time I ended up saving a lot more money - which is good. As in the case of the third iteration, I created a conservative budget - From suggestions made by Mr. Shekhar - but this budget did not bode well due to the higher costs.

The third key skill that I learned over the course of my Original Work was how to utilize the various charts at my disposal to improve each of the simulated projects over the course of each iteration. The different charts that I utilized in the simulations were a Quality Chart, a Estimated Cost at Completion Chart, a Earned Value Chart, a Estimated Project Finish Chart, Project Performance Index Chart, and a Gantt Chart. Each of these charts had a purpose of either providing details on my final costs or completion date or to keeping track of real-time performance compared to the target. Each of these charts took some time to fully understand in the first iteration, but I now have a much clearer understanding of how to utilize each of them to maximize my project performance. In the first iteration, due to my lack of knowledge, those charts definitely showed that I had little understanding of the simulation worked - which was key because this would be the baseline in the next two iterations. In the second and third iterations, I took the time to analyze the charts more carefully than I had in the first iteration to plan to either improve or maintain the course to have a satisfactory project performance.

My experience working with Mr. Shekhar and getting to learn the ins-and-outs of project management not only exposed me to the real-world situations, but also helped me improve my leadership skills. One thing is for sure, if anyone had told me to understand the skills I have mentioned, I

think I could have focused on more critical skills of a project manager. If I were to tell someone going through with a similar project, I would definitely say that taking the time to understand the skills I mentioned before going through with their project, because it would be beneficial to them by lengths and bounds in their expansion of knowledge.