

Lesson Plan:

Risk Management for IT Project Managers

Lesson Rationale:

Risk management is one of the key knowledge areas as defined by the Project Management Institute. Risk management planning is one of the key tools considered important for these project managers to effectively manage their projects and to perform their jobs.

Learner Description:

A group of project managers working within the information technology department at a large software company. As a result of the company's acquisitions of smaller companies across North America, many teams are being brought together to work within one system that includes explicit risk management planning.

The learners have assessed their own deficiencies in risk management planning and seek a formal learning intervention in order to quickly get up to speed. The learners will meet virtually, both synchronously and asynchronously, because they are distributed across North America in five company sites and four time zones.

Lesson Objectives:

- Learners will plan for project risks.
- Learners will assess project risks.
- Learners will identify project risks.
- Learners will analyze project risks.
- Learners will plan for responses to potential project risks.
- Learners will monitor and control project risks.
- Learners will discern the connection between risk management and continuing project improvement.
- Learners will work employ teamwork to reach activity objectives.

Lesson Progression:

Activity	Objectives	Progression	Time	Materials/ Meeting spaces	Grouping
1	Learners will plan for project risks.	Learners read brief introduction to risk management.	5 minutes	webpage	individual
1		Learners answer questions and share with colleague	15 minutes	- webpages - Sharepoint teamspace	pairs
2	Learners will assess project risks. Learners will identify project risks. Learners will analyze project risks.	a. Learners read the problem b. Learners collaborate with their colleague and complete a table. c. Each pair presents their table to the other groups. Learners evaluate one another's' conclusions, facilitated by senior project manager.	2 hours	a. webpages b. Sharepoint teamspace c. WebEx	a. individual b. pairs c. whole group
3	Learners will plan for responses to potential project risks. Learners will monitor and control project risks. Learners will discern the connection between risk management and continuing project improvement.	a. Learners choose a current project that they are in the middle of, evaluate it for risk and prepare a risk management plan. They use the tool that the organization uses for risk management instead of the basic table they created in Activity 2. b. Learners share it with their group and give feedback to others. Facilitated by senior project manager.	1 hour	a. webpage b. Sharepoint teamspace	a. individual c. whole group
4	All stated objectives.	Learners complete a risk management plan for a new project they are working on.	2 hours	webpage	individual
4	Review	Learners share with group their plans, evaluate and give feedback to others. Facilitated by senior PM.	1 hour	Sharepoint teamspace and/or WebEx	whole group

Learner Assessment:

- Use rubric as feedback checklist after Activities 2 and 3 during discussions.
- Use rubric to score for summative assessment after Activity 4.

Category	3	2	1
Risk Identification	Evidence in plan of using brainstorming, interviewing, and checklists. Evidence of planning for iterative process.	Evidence in plan of only one of brainstorming, interviewing or checklists. Evidence of understanding of iterative process.	Evidence in plan of only one of brainstorming, interviewing, or checklists.
Risk Analysis	Accurate use of Management ID and Analysis tool. Detailed discussion of severity and occurrence variables. Applies results to risk prioritizing.	Use of Management ID and Analysis Tool or own quantitative tool. Only lists severity and occurrence variables. Applies results to risk prioritizing.	Use of Management ID and Analysis Tool or own quantitative tool. Does not analyze or apply results.
Risk Planning	Multiple mitigation strategies are proposed, realistic, cost effective, and relevant	Multiple mitigation strategies are proposed but may not be realistic, cost effective or relevant.	Few mitigation strategies are proposed and are not explained.
Teamwork	Active in group by explaining and discussing his/her solutions with others, and providing feedback to others.	Active in group by explaining his/her solutions.	Shows up for group meetings but does not participate.