Class Activities

# Chapter 3: Project Management

**Activity 1: Activity for Small/Large Groups**

Learning objective: Describe the importance of projects to a firm, identify the people and teams that work on projects, and list the qualities that make a project a success

Have students form groups of three to four students each. Discuss and agree upon a definition of the term “project” and the features of a typical project as a group. Each student in the group then identifies a project that he/she has been involved in and what makes the project a success. Consolidate each student’s project experience into a list of success factors of project management and report back to the entire class.

**Activity 2: Online Activity**

Learning objective: Use analytical tools to calculate project schedules

Instruct each student to search the web for five project management software. Give a brief description of the software and its vendor. Compare the software on vendor reputation, technical support, pricing, features, ease-of-use, scalability and reliability. Based on the comparison, recommend a software to a small residential home builder whose annual revenue is about $10 million dollars. Post each individual’s work as a discussion board entry. Each student will then comment on three other students’ postings.

**Activity 3: Individual Exercise**

Learning objective: Demonstrate how to execute, track, and terminate projects

Have students assume the role of one of the outside experts in a task force to assess the status of a $1.2 billion laser project intended to create tiny thermonuclear explosions. The laser project is run by the Energy Department and the University of California at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Explain how the earned value management method can be used to arrive at the conclusion that the laser project is $400 million over-budget and two years behind schedule. Select several students to share their work with the rest of the class.