

Managing Student Projects

Would you like to feel more confident about your projects? Would you like to get the most out of those group projects?

I have worked for over 20 years as an engineering consultant in the power industry and engineering manager for a large water and wastewater utility. I have hired many junior engineers and engineering aides. Many have great technical skills. Their undergraduate curricula provided them a solid background in the technical aspects of engineering. However, most engineering jobs require some project management skills. Project management is typically not part of an undergraduate program.

Fortunately, undergraduate programs do include many group projects where students are given a great opportunity for ‘on the job training’. These projects provide an excellent opportunity that will benefit you for many years. Obviously these projects are part of your course grade and grades are part of how you will be judged for future opportunities. But also, the experience you gain can be useful for job interviews and early success in your career.

The article “How to Improve Student Project Management Skills” provides some guidance on how to better organize your approach to completing your school projects. Generally students are thrown together to sink or swim in a project. An organized approach will help improve the experience for a better grade and valuable knowledge for future interviews and job skills.

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