

Summer 2018 Newsletter



Tom's Notes

By: Tom Sheives, PhD, PMP, CSM
Program Director, Project Management

It was 1998. I had just lost my job after working at a company for 10 years. Down-sizing - right -sizing. I was a Director of a Software/Hardware Development division. I was a little tired of the corporate thing. I told my wife that I wanted to go spend about \$1200 to get my PMP. She thought I was crazy but as always, supported my decision

Within about 2 months, I had my PMP. Within another 2 months, I accepted an offer where the main requirement was a PMP. I went on to make more money in the two years following than I have since.

What a great decision to get my PMP! It has continued to open doors for me throughout my career.

PMI reports "Among survey respondents to PMI's Earning Power Salary Survey, those with

a PMP certification garner a higher salary (23% higher on average) than those without a PMP certification."

<https://www.pmi.org/certifications/types/project-management-pmp>

This should be a good enough reason to getting your PMP!



Harrisburg University offers to our students at no cost a complete 7-week online PMP and CAPM prep course. Following the Prep course, you can

take either the PMP exam (PMP requires 4500 hours leading or directing projects) or the CAPM which requires no experience. Approximately 60 students have so far taken advantage of this opportunity! Check the link above or if you have further questions, please contact our own PMI/PMP guru, Dr. Stephen Onu at sonu@harrisburgu.edu.

But what about Agile Certifications? Yes. Harrisburg University has a relationship with Scrum.org for our students to take the PSM-I (Professional ScrumMaster I certification) or the PSPO (Professional Scrum Product Owner) certification at cost of less than \$50.00. We also provide you some exam study and preparation materials. For further questions, contact Dr. Joe Malak, jmalak@harrisburgu.edu.

If you are teaching at Harrisburg University and don't have your PMP, please consider getting it, even if you are teaching more of our soft skill courses like MGMT 520 Professional Communications and MGMT 560 Organizational Leadership. Learning the PMBOK will help you have the context more to teach these concepts to our students. Corporate Faculty are offered these prep courses for a very small fee to cover materials! Sign up now!



Important Dates

Late Summer
2018 Session Starts
7-14-2018

Fall 2018 Session Starts
8-24-2018

Labor Day Holiday
No Classes
9-3-2018

How to Avoid Plagiarism in Research & Writing

By: Barbara Geisler
Assistant Professor of Project Management

Plagiarism is generally defined as using the work of someone else without proper acknowledgment and/or citation. It is one of several forms of academic dishonesty outlined in the HU Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook. All of your

professors have probably explained that it is something you should NEVER do. But that leaves the question... what should you do instead?

The answer is to write with integrity. Whether you are writing a one-paragraph re-

sponse or a ten-page paper, you need to ensure that your work is yours, and that which you include from others is properly cited. Here are some tips to get you started:

(continued on pg.2)

How to Avoid Plagiarism in Research & Writing (article continued from pg. 1)

Read until you understand. Think of your research topic as an ongoing conversation. Find out who started it and who is currently leading it. Look for the “big dogs” of the conversation (the ones everyone else is quoting and citing). Most research conversations have them. Find out what researchers agree on, what is still up for debate and what we still need to know. Those are the “gaps” graduate research is meant to fill.

Take notes as you go. As you read and comprehend that conversation, take notes in your own words. Read your pdf, flip it over, and start writing from what you remember. Then go back and compare. Don’t fall into the trap of cutting and pasting a bunch of text with the intention of going back and

paraphrasing later (just in case later never comes).

Explain it to your mother. Describe and discuss your topic with enough detail that mom could follow along. A few important key facts and definitions (well cited, of course) are good for your reader to know, and good for your professor to know that YOU know. Like mom, your professor wants to hear your “voice” in your work – your interpretations, your analysis and your conclusions.

Become an APA Ninja. Improper citation and referencing, however unintentional, is still plagiarism. And while you may not instinctively know how to make a hanging indent or the proper use of et al., there are

plenty of resources like the HU Library, HU Tutoring, Smarthinking™ and Purdue OWL to help.

Be ethical. If someone could respond to a statement in your paper with “says who?” you are probably missing a citation to someone who deserves the credit. If you claim to have read sources you didn’t, that’s academic dishonesty. If you submit an assignment written by anyone other than you, you have added academic malice aforethought to your crime, so be ready to face the consequences.

The best way to avoid plagiarism is to never do it in the first place. Write with academic integrity, and you’ll never have to worry.

Featured Faculty

With more than 20 years of experience in the IT and software development industries, I’ve been involved in IT Business Analysis, Applications Engineering, Deployment Management, and Project and Program Management. As Applications Engineer, I started my career out in 1995 working for Autodesk, a Computer Aided Design (CAD) / Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) / Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) software company in Connecticut, then moved on to work for Hewlett Packard (HP) also as Applications Engineer / Deployment Manager for an online collaboration application for Engineers. I also worked for Pitney Bowes (PB) as a Sr. Support Engineer, and with Dassault Systems as a Sr. Product Support Manager. I worked as a Program Manager for Tech Mahindra, an India base consulting compa-

ny, and as a Project Manager for FedEx.



Dr. Joe Malak
Assistant Professor
Project Management

From Project Management perspective, I have about 7 years of experience as a Program and Project Manager. As a Program Manager at Tech Mahindra, I managed a multi-year, multi-million dollars program that included the development, configuration, and support of a PLM (Product Lifecycle Management) environment with

about 12 different downstream applications. I had about 55 developers offshore and 5 developers/team leads were onsite. Each quarter the team delivered 12 different releases, one for each application using a combination of Waterfall and Agile with Scrum methodologies. As a Project manager for FedEx, I managed several projects for software development, production support

and systematic reports for the Target.com E-Commerce Program.

I have a bachelor and a master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering, from the University of Connecticut (UCONN), a Master’s of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Project management, from the American Intercontinental University (AIU), and a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) with a concentration in Management of Information Systems, from the Walden University, and my dissertation was on the factors that affect the IT manager’s decision of adopting cloud computing.