Surviving Group Projects

Group projects - everyone involved has different opinions, different schedules, different expectations, different amounts of time and energy that they are willing to commit. Here are a few tips.

Role of the Leader:
- Make sure everyone understands the problem or project.
- Divide project into smaller tasks and assign members to these tasks.
- Work with the team to create a project timeline and short-term goals.
- At the beginning of each meeting decide what should be accomplished by the end of the meeting.
- Designate a recorder on the team.
- Listen to all team members’ ideas.
- Engage members who are contributing much.

Creating & Evaluating Ideas:
- We have about 20 ideas here. Can we sort them into a few general categories?
- Could you give us an example of what you mean?
- Who has dealt with this kind of problem before?
- What are the pluses of that approach? The minuses?
- Let’s try ranking these ideas in priority order. The group should try to come to an agreement that makes sense to everyone.

Making a decision:
- There seems to be some agreement here. Is there anyone who couldn’t live with solution #2?
- Are there any objections to going that way?
- You still seem to have worries about this solution. Is there anything that could be added or taken away to make it more acceptable? It looks as if there are still some major points of disagreement. Can we go back and define what those issues are and work on them rather than forcing a decision now.

Group Dynamics: Conflict
- Communicate with your team. If you notice a problem in your group, discuss it right away. Don’t let the problem escalate.
- Keep a clear schedule. Talk about deadlines and try to stick to them as much as possible.
- Help team members who are struggling - everyone needs to understand the problem.
- In desperate situations, don’t be afraid to ask your TA or professor for help.
- Don’t let one team member have too much responsibility - divide tasks evenly.
- Be patient!
- Use humor.
Industrial Systems Engineering

Industrial engineering is about choices.

Other engineering disciplines apply skills to very specific areas. IE gives practitioners the opportunity to work in a variety of businesses.

Many practitioners say that an industrial engineering education offers the best of both worlds: an education in both engineering and business.

The most distinctive aspect of industrial engineering is the flexibility it offers. Whether it’s shortening a rollercoaster line, streamlining an operating room, distributing products worldwide, or manufacturing superior automobiles, all these challenges share the common goal of saving companies money and increasing efficiencies. As companies adopt management philosophies of continuous productivity and quality improvement to survive in the increasingly competitive world market, the need for industrial engineers is growing.

Why? Industrial engineers are the only engineering professionals trained specifically to be productivity and quality improvement specialists.

Industrial engineers figure out how to do things better.

They engineer processes and systems that improve quality and productivity. They work to eliminate waste of time, money, materials, energy, and other commodities. This is why many industrial engineers end up being promoted into management positions. Many people are misled by the term industrial engineer.

It’s not just about manufacturing.

It also encompasses service industries, with many IEs employed in entertainment industries, shipping and logistics businesses, and health care organizations.

The benefits of industrial engineering are widespread:

• More efficient and more profitable business practices
• Better customer service and product quality
• Improved efficiency
• Increased ability to do more with less
• Making work safer, faster, easier, and more rewarding
• Helping companies produce more products quickly
• Making the world safer through better designed products
• Reducing costs associated with new technologies

More about Industrial Engineering on page 4
More about the Areas of Concentration:

**Accounting**
- How businesses track their incomes and assets over time.
- Prepare financial statements and record business transactions.
- Compute costs and efficiency gains from new technologies.
- Provide strategies for mergers and acquisitions.
- Use information systems to track financial performance.
- Tax strategies, quality management, and more!
- Accountants work in audit, budget analysis, financial reporting, accounting management . . .
- [Careers in Accounting](#)

**Entrepreneurship**
- Do you have what it takes to start your own business?

**Finance**
- [Careers in Finance](#)

**Information Technology Management**
- Basically the application of technology and computers in business.
- Types of jobs: technical editor/writer, usability analyst, content manager, systems analyst, technology coordinator, web developer/administrator.
- Database management, software management, systems integration, telecommunications and networking.

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Your Major: Experiencing Indecision or Uncertainty?

**Check Out the Following:**

- **Choosing a Major Workshop**
  - Thursday November 9th
  - Location: Success Center Room 260
  - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- **Majors Fair**
  - (Trying to decide on a major? Want to learn about related careers?)
  - Thursday November 16th
  - Location: Student Center Ballroom
  - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sponsoring Department: [Career Services](#)

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What is the difference? **Information Technology vs Computer Science**

- CS — technical emphasis, programs usually accredited by ABET
- IT — business emphasis, Programs usually not accredited by ABET

(Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology)
Operations Management
Manage processes to produce and distribute products and services.
- The Association for Operations Management
- Operations Research

Marketing
- Careers in Marketing
- American Marketing Association
- What is Marketing?

Organizational Behavior
- Study and application of knowledge about how people, individuals, and groups act in organizations, a systems approach.
- Possible careers: Human Resource Managers, Industrial-Organizational Psychologists, Management Analysts, Compensation-Benefit Managers, Training and Development Managers

Strategic Management
- Managerial decisions and actions that determine the long-run performance of the corporation.
- American Strategic Management Institute

Industrial Engineering Career Resources
- Georgia Tech ISYE Program
- Careers in Industrial Engineering
- Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE)
- Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS)
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
- Mathematical Programming Society (MPS)
- Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME)
- The Association for Operations Management
- Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
- American Society for Quality

Announcement for Pre-Health Students:
New Director of Pre-Health, Jennifer Kimbel, M.Ed.
Appointments beginning mid-November.
Sign up on http://www.advising.gatech.edu/pre-health@lists.gatech.edu
at https://lists.gatech.edu/sympa/ to keep up with the latest pre-health issues and workshops.

Next Issue:
November 17th
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Newsletter brought to you by: Department of Housing Academic Support Coordinator

Contact: Jennifer Kuninsky (404-385-4184)

If you would be willing to talk with other students about one of the majors in this newsletter or if you would like to speak with someone in one of these majors, please e-mail Jennifer Kuninsky.