

Educational Topic

Project Manager

Related Job Titles:

Project Lead, Technical Lead, Principal Investigator

Job Description:

Project Managers plan, organize, and lead research, development, design, and computer activities. Project Managers lead other people by dividing tasks, making a schedule, reviewing, and assessing their work. They come up with a detailed plan of how to reach the goals of a project and estimate the cost of the project. They present ideas and projects to top management for approval or for funding. Project Managers spend most of their time in an office and in meetings. Sometimes they have pressure to meet deadlines.

Interests / Abilities:

- Do you manage your time well?
- Are you good at making decisions?
- Are you organized?
- Are you good at leading and persuading people?
- Do you get along well with others?
- Do you express yourself clearly when speaking?
- Are you good at inspiring or motivating others?

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Science, engineering or computer science
- Math
- Speech
- Leadership

Education / Training Needed:

To be a Program Manager, experience as an Engineer, Mathematician, Scientist, or Computer Professional is essential to understand and guide the type of work managed. The minimum education required for this position is a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. A Program Manager must know NASA's methods and rules of managing projects and gathering resources. Project Managers must also be able to organize many activities happening at one time. Most managers begin as a Scientist or Engineer and are promoted because of their management skills.

Areas of expertise:

- *Engineering*: lead people who design and develop equipment, products, and processes
- *Science*: lead research and development activities in chemistry, biology, geology, meteorology, or physics
- *Computer systems*: lead and plan programming and projects that use computers and coordinate development of computer equipment and software

Additional Resources:

- American Management Association,
1601 Broadway, New York, NY 10019-7420
- Astrobiology Summer Academy
<http://academy.arc.nasa.gov/>
- Earth to Orbit: Engineering Design Challenges
<http://eto.nasa.gov/>
- Graduate Student Researchers Program
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/NASA.Educational.Products/Graduate.Student.Researchers.Program.Brochure/.index.html>
- Jobs with the Federal Government
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>
- MATHCOUNTS Competition
<http://mathcounts.org/>
- Minority University Research and Education Programs
<http://mured.nasaprs.com/>
- NASA Cooperative Education Program for college students
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Educational.Services/NASA.Education.Programs/Student.Support/NASA.Cooperative.Education.Program/.index.html>
- NASA Jobs
<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>
- NASA SHARP Internship Program for high-schoolers
<http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/>
- NASA Student Employment
http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm
- NASA Student Involvement Program student contests
<http://www.nsip.net/index.cfm>

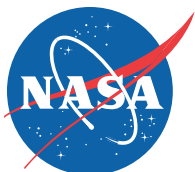
What can I do right now?

- Join a leadership club or camp.
- Participate in student government or leadership of a club.
- Call the American Association of Science and Technology Centers for information on science museums in your area that you might visit. (202) 783-7200
- Participate in science fair projects.
- Research science, engineering, and computer occupations to decide what area you would like to work in.

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- National Management Association
2210 Arbor Blvd. Dayton, OH 45439
 - Revolutionary Vehicle Concepts and Systems student competition
<http://avst.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.html>
 - Student's Guide to Astrobiology
<http://www.astrobiology.com/student.html>
 - Tech-Interns.com
<http://www.tech-interns.com/>

• Please take a moment to evaluate this product at:
• http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational_topic

• Your evaluation and suggestions are vital to continually improving NASA educational materials.
• Thank you.



<http://quest.nasa.gov/people/index.html>

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