The Merits of Using Project Management to Write a Masters Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation

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The data collected from the PMI website was only 30 responses, of which only 25 were useable. This made for a sample size that was not as significant as one would have hoped.

The goal of the research was to show that project managers were more effective in completing a dissertation or thesis than individuals without such skills. In related research it was identified that the typical time to complete a dissertation was 24 months. It was hoped that we would have a sample size that was large enough that would show that project managers were able to complete their dissertations in 12 months or less.

However, since the sample size was so small, that only four of thirteen project managers with dissertations had completed their dissertation within 12 months. Another three completed their dissertation within 24 months. Three of thirteen project managers completing in 36 months order. This left three that did not respond, which means that that they perhaps never finished their dissertation or they have not completed their dissertation.

Now, if this pattern were to continue with a larger sample size, then it would appear that project managers do the same or better than the average dissertation writer as 70% of the experienced project managers were able to complete their doctoral dissertation in 24 months or less. This would show that project managers do better in the completion time of their dissertation than non-project managers.

Are you male or female? Male Female	Response Total 21 9
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	30 0
What is your age range? A. 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56 or over Total Respondents (skipped this question)	Response Total 2 9 5 12 2 30 0

Response Total

Are you a project management professional?

Yes No	18 12
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	30 0
Did you write a master's thesis?	Response Total
Yes No	20 10
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	30 0
Did you write a doctoral dissertation?	Response Total
Yes No	13 17
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	30 0
How many years have you practiced project management as a team member	er? Response Total
0-10 years 11-15 years 16 years or longer	21 3
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	30 0
How many years have you practiced project management as a project management	ager? Response Total
0-10 years 11-15 years 16 years or more	23 1
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	30 0
Are you a member of the Project Management Institute?	Response Total
Yes No	13 17

Total Respondents (skipped this question)		30 0		
Approximately how many months did it take you to finish your thesis or dissertation?				
0-12 months	Response Total	17		
13 – 24 months		4		
25 – 36 months		0		
36 months or greater		3		
Total Respondents		24		
(skipped this question)		6		
I used project management scheduling techniques to create a timeline for complete a dissertation/thesis.	or the tasks required	to		
complete a dissertation whosis.	Response Total			
	1	8		
	2	8 3		
	4	5		
	5	1		
Total Respondents		25		
(skipped this question)		5		
I used project management risk management techniques to manage my dissertation/thesis process.				
	Response Total			
	1 2	6 7		
	3	1		
	4	5		
	5	6		
Total Respondents		25		
(skipped this question)		5		
I used cost management techniques to manage my dissertation/thesis p				
	Response Total	3		
	2	6		
	3	5		
	4 5	7 5		
	<u> </u>	J		
Total Respondents		25		
(skipped this question)		5		

I developed a work breakdown structure for writing my dissertation/thesi	S.	Decrease Total
	1	Response Total 10
	2	5
	3	1
	4	7
	5	2
Total Respondents		25
(skipped this question)		5
I updated the project schedule on a regular basis.		
		Response Total
	1	8
	2	6
	3 4	1 8
	5	2
Total Respondents		25 5
(skipped this question)		5
I updated the project cost on a regular basis.		Dannara Tatal
	1	Response Total 2
	2	4
	3	6
	4	7
	5	6
Total Respondents		25
(skipped this question)		5

We are currently in the process of writing a manual for utilizing Project Management to assist students in the successful achievement of their degrees. If you are interested in this topic, or have used project management skills to complete your dissertation, please contact us at wanda.curlee@bearingpoint.com, or take the Survey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=195412115647 to share your insights. Any additional data to assist us in our writing endeavor would be greatly appreciated.