

SMART Planning

Planning Training Updates

Jodi Creswell, HQ Planning CoP
Tim Fleege, LRP - Planning Essentials
Leigh Skaggs, HQ OWPR – Plan Formulation
and Evaluation Capstone



US Army Corps of Engineers
PLANNING SMART
BUILDING STRONG®

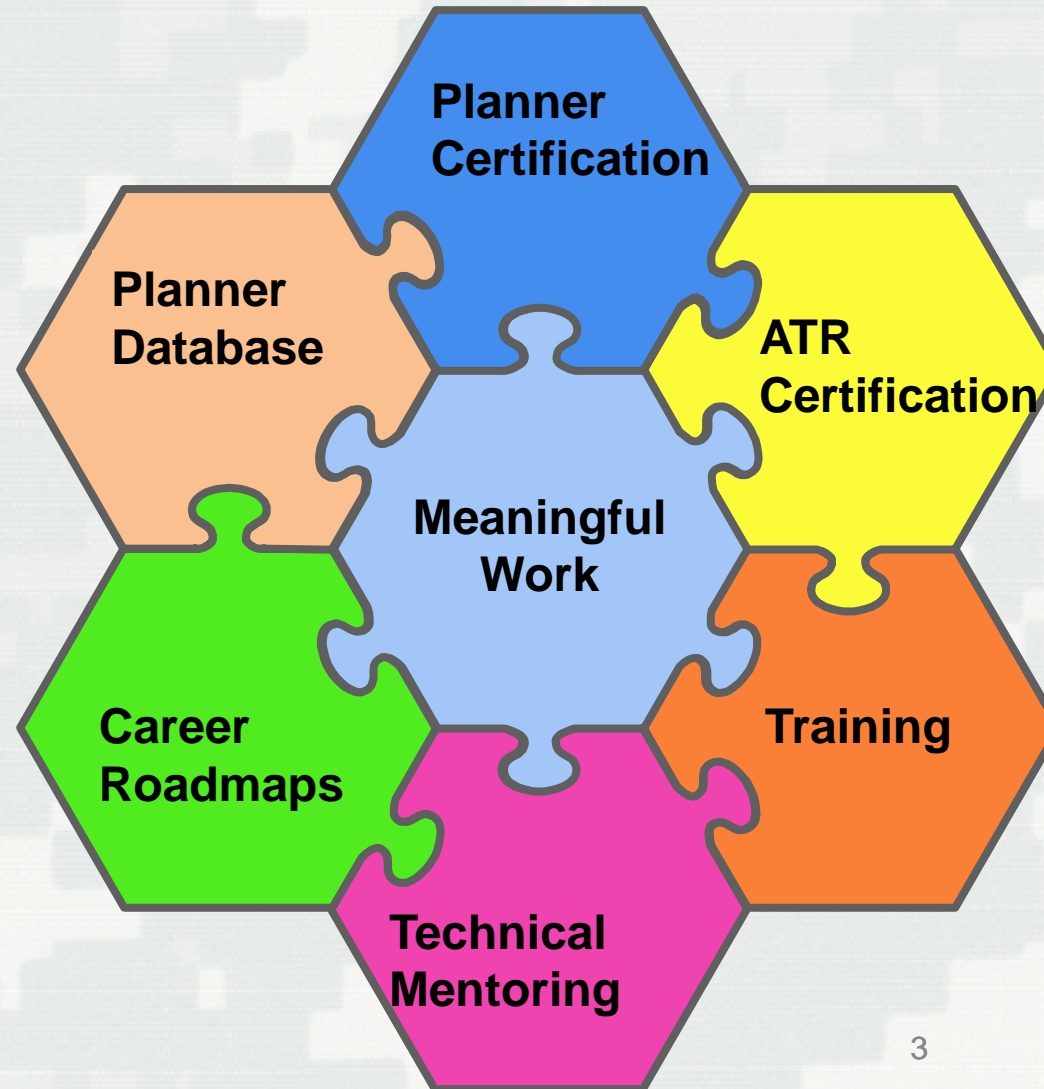


Planning Training Updates Outline

- Why Change?
- Overview of new courses
- Campaign Plan Metrics and Training
- Civil Project Development Process
- Planning Essentials
- Plan Formulation and Evaluation Capstone
- Questions and Answers

Investing in People

*Improving
planner
knowledge and
experience
through training
and other
opportunities*



Planning Core Curriculum- Why Change?

- SMART Planning not addressed
- Some content overly repetitive creating inefficient delivery
- PowerPoint heavy with long classroom hours
- In 2012, only 16% planners met the mandatory training requirement
- To achieve 90% trained as per Wash memo would cost over \$8 million and take 7 years

New Planning Core Curriculum



**Civil Works Project
Development Process**

• PROSPECT 86

Planning Essentials

• PROSPECT 77

**Plan Formulation and
Evaluation Capstone**

• PROSPECT 406

New PCC Course Details

Civil Works Project Development Process

- Online
- Asynchronous
- 8 hours
- \$682
- PROSPECT 86

Planning Essentials



- Online (BlackBoard) and webinar
- Synchronous and asynchronous
- ~40 hours
- \$1,483
- PROSPECT 77

Plan Formulation and Evaluation Capstone

- Face-to-Face
- 40 hours
- \$1,600
- PROSPECT 406

Campaign Plan Metrics

Metric 2a1.1 Percent of Planners Trained

Course	CW Project Development Process	Planning Essentials	Plan Formulation and Evaluation Capstone
FY16	90%	50%	
FY17		70%	50%
FY18		90%	70%
FY19			90%

Former PCC Courses

- Transitioned to PROSPECT
- Availability varies
- Next step in Training Refresh

PCC3 Environmental Considerations in Planning

- PROSPECT 408
- FY16 - 2 sessions

PCC4 Economic Analysis

- PROSPECT 270
- Not offered in FY16

PCC5 H&H for Planners

- PROSPECT 409
- Not offered in FY16

PCC7 Public Involvement & Team Building

- PROSPECT 407
- FY16 - 2 sessions

Civil Works Project Development

- On-demand, 7 modules
 - PROSPECT Course 086
 - Material available on Toolbox (Training, PCC)
- Needs updated for single-phased planning
 - Scheduled for completion January 2016

Planning Essentials

Tim Fleegeer, NAP
Sierra Keenan, MVP



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Charge to Developers

- Revamp the existing PCC2 Course
- Incorporate the essential elements of
 - Environmental Considerations (PCC3)
 - Economic Analysis (PCC4)
 - H&H Considerations (PCC5)
 - Public Involvement & Teaming (PCC7)
- Deliver Virtually



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Planning Essentials

Course Overview

- “Blended” Learning Course
 - Self-paced Storyline Modules
 - Interactive Webinars
 - Assignments
 - Discussion Board Posts
 - Written Assignments
 - Post-test



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	WELCOME AND ORIENTATION		START
"COURSE THEMES"	OVERVIEW: PROBLEM SOLVING, COMMUNICATION, AND TEAMS		LESSON ONE
PLANNING BACKGROUND & BASICS	PLANNING FUNDAMENTALS		LESSON TWO
	GUIDANCE, LAWS, AND AUTHORITIES		LESSON THREE
	PLANNING DECISION DOCUMENTS		LESSON FOUR
PROBLEM SOLVING: 6-STEP PLANNING PROCESS	PLANNING STEP 1: PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES		LESSON FIVE
	PLANNING STEP 2: INVENTORY AND FORECAST		LESSON SIX
	PLANNING STEP 3: FORMULATE ALTERNATIVE PLANS (MILESTONE 1)		LESSON SEVEN
	PLANNING STEP 4: EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE PLANS		LESSON EIGHT
	PLANNING STEP 5: COMPARE ALTERNATIVE PLANS		LESSON NINE
	PLANNING STEP 6: PLAN SELECTION (MILESTONE 2)		LESSON TEN
THE RECOMMENDATION & DECISION PATH	FROM TSP TO CHIEF'S REPORT (MILESTONES 3-5)		LESSON ELEVEN
	COURSE REVIEW AND EXAM		FINISH



▼ Planning Essentials

Announcements

Course Materials

Resource Library

Student Bios & Course
Feedback

Instructor Bios

Grades

COURSE MANAGEMENT

▼ Control Panel

► Content Collection

► Course Tools

► Evaluation

► Grade Center

► Users and Groups

► Customization

► Packages and Utilities

► Help

Course Materials



Welcome Video - also available at <http://youtu.be/OibU6ID3J2U>



• Download video file: [Sequence 01.wmv](#)



Syllabus and Schedule



Week 1: Oct 5-9

All materials, assignments and readings for Lesson 1 are located here.



Week 2: Oct 12-16

All materials, assignments and readings for Lessons 2, 3, and 4 are located here.

PROSPECT

Planning Essentials 077 Lesson 8



STEP 4 - EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE PLANS



Menu Notes

- ▶ Getting Started
- ▼ Planning Step 4 - Overview
 - Planning Step 4 - Overview
 - Evaluate Alternative Plans**
 - What is Evaluation?
- ▶ Why Conduct Evaluations?
- ▼ When do we Conduct Evaluations?
 - When do we Conduct Evaluations?
 - Progression of Evaluations
 - Preliminary Screening
 - Initial Suite of Alternatives
 - Focused Array of Alternatives
- ▼ What do we Evaluate?
 - What Do We Evaluate?
 - How Much is Enough?
 - Significant Effects
 - What is Significant?
- ▼ Institutionally Recognized Significance
 - Institutionally Recognized Significance

Planning Essentials: Beta Course

- 6 Weeks
- Recorded hours by students approached 52 hours (median)
- Assignments
 - Discussion Boards: 6
 - Crossword Puzzle: 1
 - Written Assignments: 5
 - Reading Assignments: Lots



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Planning Essentials: Beta Course Timeline

	Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5			Week 6		
(averages)	0	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Total
Total time for lesson	2	7	5	3	3.25	4.5	5	6.75	4.5	3.25	2.5	1.5	3	51.25
Storyline time*		3.5	1.5	1.25	1	1.75	1.75	2	3	0.75	1	0.5		18
Assignment time**	1	3.5	3.5	1.75	2.25	2.75	3.25	1.75	1.5	2.5	1.5	1	2	28.25
Webinar time	1							3					1	5
Weekly Totals	9		8		7.75		11.75		10.25			4.5		51.25

* Recorded from BlackBoard

** Self-Reported by Students

- Originally scoped for 40 hours



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Planning Essentials: What Went Well

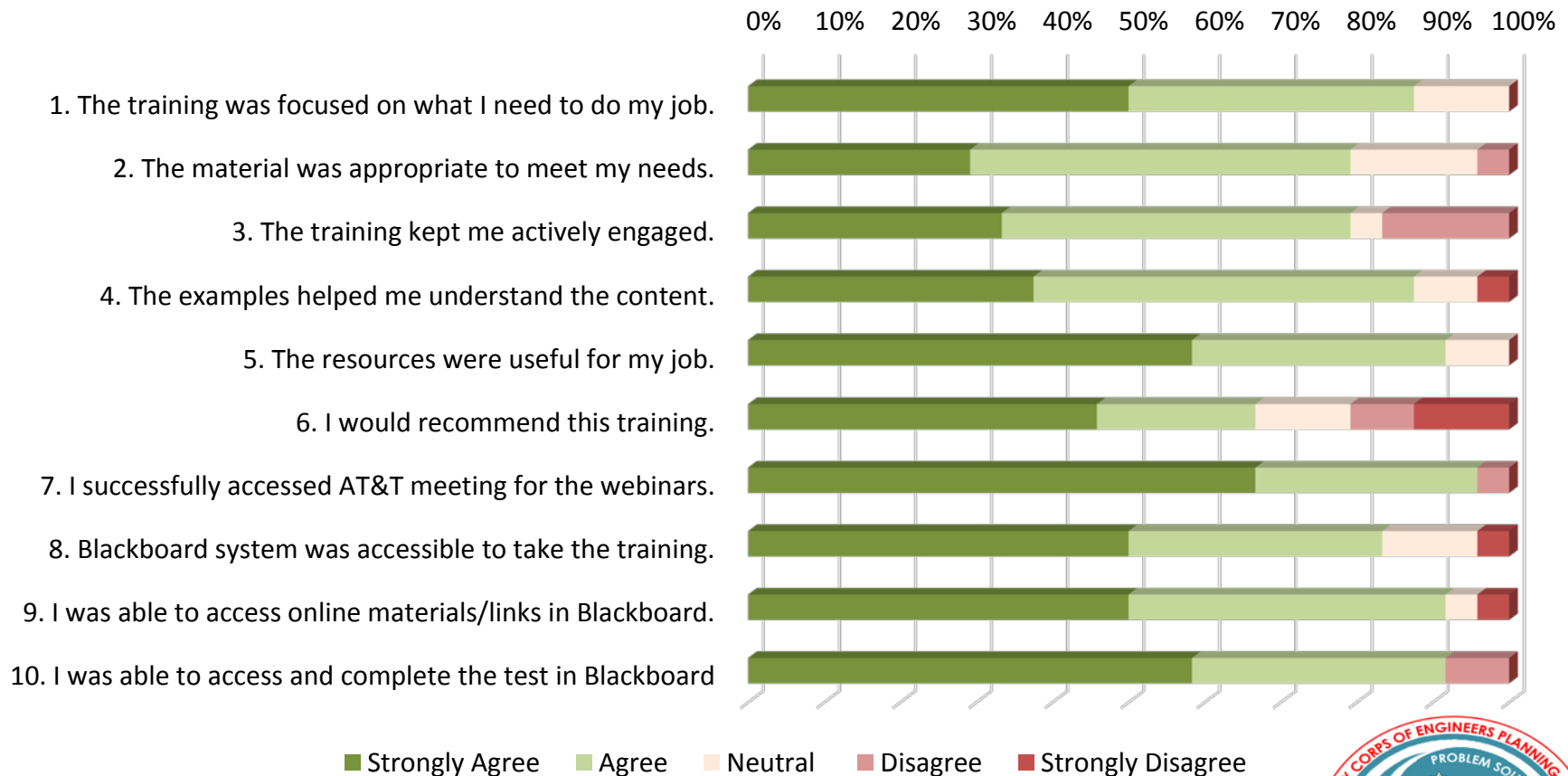
- Positive feedback from students on storyline modules.
- Interactive webinars.
- Adjustments on the fly to meet student needs.
- Overall positive student response:
 - “I learned a lot and it's already helping me on projects.”
 - “It would be great if all PROSPECT courses (or all online trainings) could use such a stellar presentation.”
 - “The Lesson 7 webinar working through the planning process as a group was the most useful (and fun) lesson.”
 - “Delivery was excellent, interesting, engaging, and informative”
 - “I hope more courses are offered in this distance learning method in the future.”



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Planning Essentials: Student Reviews



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Planning Essentials: What Needs Improvement

- Technical issues for Blackboard.
- Better communication to Students and Supervisors on expectations of a virtual course.
- Clarity in Grading Rubric.
- Reduction in course work (storyline lessons, reading, assignments).
- Expand length of course to make more feasible to complete (from 6 wks to 8 wks).
- Ensure test questions are consistent with final storyline lesson scripts/priority focuses.



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Planning Essentials: Changes from Beta Course

- Extended Course length to 8 Weeks
- Lessons and assignments grouped by Week
- 1 Additional Webinar (1 every other week – 4 total)
- New anticipated course time 36 hours. Allows for glitches, slower learners, time to review recommended material
 - Reduction in Required Reading – Majority now recommended
 - Storylines for Lessons I & VIII trimmed to remove redundant material
 - Assignments
 - Discussion Boards: 4
 - ~~Crossword Puzzle: 0~~
 - Written Assignments: 3
 - Reading Assignments: 7
- Adding Planning Primer to course pre-requisites



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Planning Essentials: New Course Breakdown

	Week 1		Week 2			Week 3		Week 4	Week 5	Week 6		Week 7			Week 8	
Lesson	0	I	II	III	IV	IVb	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Test	Total
Total time for lesson	1.5	4.5	1.5	2.25	1.5	1	3.25	4.25	4.5	3	2.25	2.5	0.5	1	2	35.5
Storyline time		3.5	1.5	1.25	1		1.75	1.75	2	3	0.75	1	0.5			18
Assignment time	0.5	1	0	1	0.5		1.5	2.5	0	0	1.5	1.5	0		2	12
Webinar time	1					1			2.5					1		5.5
Weekly Total Time	6		5.25			4.25		4.25	4.5	5.25		4			2	35.5



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Planning Essentials: Next Steps

- FY16 Session 1: Oct 5 – Nov 28, 2015 (32 Students)
- FY16 Session 2: Feb 2 – Apr 1, 2015 (20 Students)
- Future: Approximately 2 sessions per year (~30 students per session)
- Continue to update / refine content as needed
 - Address AAR Comments
 - Address new P&Gs
 - Update case study exercises
 - Reflect any new guidance



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Plan Formulation and Evaluation Capstone

Leigh Skaggs
Office of Water Project Review



Capstone Purpose

- From the “Purple Book”
 - Case studies & participatory activities
 - Apply critical thinking & decision making skills
 - Planning knowledge
 - Communication skills
 - Capability to use planning tools & techniques
 - Quality decisions & decision documents



Capstone Format

- 36 hours (4.5 days)
 - Face-to-face
 - 20-30 students
 - ~ 4 instructors
- 14 sessions/topics
 - 6 planning steps
 - Federal Interest
 - NEPA
 - Conceptual models
 - Formulation strategies
 - SMART Planning tools
 - Risk communication panel
 - Concurrent review
 - Feasibility level design
 - Field Trip
 - CWRB “Placemat” exercise

Capstone Format (cont'd)

- Minimal lecture, maximum discussion
- Hands-on, interactive
- Concepts/topics built around 4 case studies
 - FRM
 - NAV
 - ER
 - CSDR
- Group exercises
 - 4-5 students per group, working together all week
 - Instructors engaged throughout exercises
- Much of the Q&A is student led
- Panel discussions
- No pre/post-test; pass/fail based on student involvement

Capstone Beta Session

- Sacramento, CA - August 10-14, 2015
- 19 students
- Overall, VERY positive response
 - Group work, interaction, instructor availability
 - Relevance of exercises to job requirements/tasks
 - Field trip/site visit invaluable



Capstone Lessons Learned

- 4-5 students per group is ideal number
- Student participation can “make or break” the class
- Ideally, students will have:
 - Taken pre-requisite PCC courses (#1 Civil Works and #2 Essentials)
 - A few years of planning experience



Capstone Lessons Learned

- Instructors are revising & tweaking through November 2015
 - Same topics, but adjustments to agenda
 - More time for certain exercises (e.g., objectives & constraints, DMP, RR), less for others
 - Groups should focus more on their own case studies
 - Internet access



Capstone Next Sessions

- Jacksonville, FL: 25-29 January 2016
- Sacramento, CA: 20-24 June 2016
- New Orleans, LA: future location in rotation



Summary

- 3 Planning Core Curriculum Courses

Civil Works Project Development Process	Planning Essentials	Plan Formulation and Evaluation Capstone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jodi Creswell PCoP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Fleeger, LRP• Lance Awsumb LRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leigh Skaggs OWPR• Jerry Fuentes SPK

- % Trained tracked in Campaign Plan Metrics
- Courses employ variety of delivery methods
- ***PCoP leading the way in Training Updates!***

Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.
We will answer as many
as time allows.

For more information:
<http://www.corpsplanning.us>



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