Businesses across industries are valuing project management skills more and more for the successful planning and execution of various initiatives, including the likes of research, marketing campaigns, product development, business process reengineering, construction, mergers and acquisitions, and even corporate restructuring. In fact, in a survey of recent Ateneo graduates, project management has been called out as a field of study that they would have wanted further emphasized in the curriculum given their current experience in the workplace. To address this gap, the John Gokongwei School of Management is introducing the Minor in Project Management, which provides coverage of both the technical and social aspects of managing projects. It likewise provides an avenue for students to apply the tools and techniques in managing scope, time, quality and resources in a two semester long, real-life project. Moreover, the minor program can actually be the first step in gaining certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI), as it fulfills the latter’s 35 hour formal instruction requirement.

Diagram of Minor

Course Offerings

POM 199.2 Project Management Fundamentals: This course provides students with an overview of project management, focusing on project initiation and control. A discussion of the different types of projects, the project life cycle as well as the intricacies of defining and monitoring project resources, cost, scope and schedule – through work breakdown structures, the precedence diagramming method and earned value analysis among other tools – is included. Popular project management software will also be introduced.

POM 199.3 Project Management Tools and Techniques: Building on the student’s knowledge of project management fundamentals, this course examines more advanced tools in project management, such as PERT, risk management, quality management, project auditing, as well as approaches to estimation. A survey of popular project management methodologies is included. Given that a lot of projects in both the manufacturing and services industry are contract-driven, students will be exposed to the bid process (RFPs, RFQs and RFIs) and related procurement activities. The course ends with a discussion on factors leading to failed projects, as illustrated by cases to be shared by the instructor.

POM 199.4 Managing Project Teams: The social side of project management is often neglected. This course focuses on the personnel issues facing a project manager, with an in-depth discussion on motivating project teams, setting expectations, resolving conflicts and developing requisite skills. As most projects these days involve third party work, vendor management will be
tackled. Moreover, techniques in dealing with critical project stakeholders and conducting project workshops will also be presented, with emphasis on effective approaches in negotiation and project communication.

POM 199.5 Strategic Project Management: In this capstone course of the Project Management minor program, project portfolio management and the project selection process will be discussed. Students will be exposed to the intricacies of managing big projects (an umbrella of projects); concepts in governance and the PMO (project management office) will likewise be shared.

Elective

This allows the student to explore an area of interest in either the technical or social side of project management. Decision sciences and people management electives are highly recommended.