This Academy of Program and Project Leadership core course is a major milestone in the professional development of NASA project managers. In a two-week residential class, Level 2 project managers, team members, and project control staff, gain insights into leadership, team development, risk management, scheduling, inter-team networking, negotiations, and other critical project management competencies that would take years to learn on the job.

Revised to make the student’s role more active, this course features a three-day project management simulation, a hands-on learning environment that immerses participants into a highly-charged world of managerial decision-making. As course participants plan and implement a simulated project, they must confront and resolve an array of problems associated with vendors, contractors, quality requirements, schedule commitments, and customer interactions, while accommodating the personalities and skills of their team.

Other learning techniques include lectures, a computer simulation, videos, process consultation, assessment instruments, group discussions, and reflective activities.

Instruction goes beyond tools and techniques. It integrates key management processes, such as building relationships and developing teams, with basic management tasks such as planning schedules, assessing risk, and using project management tools. The result is a complete set of leadership skills and behaviors.

APPL is recognized by the Project Management Institute as a Registered Education Provider. In addition, Project Management is recommended by the American Council on Education for three graduate credits. The course is offered four times a year at Wallops Island, Virginia, and once a year at Ames Research Center, in California.

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> Recognize when to focus on a task and when to focus on a process for the greater benefit of a project.
> Develop defensible project plans.
> Use project management tools and techniques to effectively track and control projects.
> Understand the future of project management from the perspective of Agency leaders.
> Build superior project teams.
> Study and analyze best practices.
> Negotiate constructive, long-term agreements.
> Understand expectations of project managers from Agency leadership perspective.
> Identify complex trade-offs in project decisions.

To learn more about Career Development courses and other APPL services, find contact information at www.appl.nasa.gov.