

Final Project: Developing a Proposal for a New Employee Onboarding Program

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. It requires you to synthesize what you have learned throughout the term to create a proposal for a new employee onboarding program. This is a major research and writing assignment that addresses all course objectives. You must complete this assignment individually, without contacting other students. Please do not use a paper or any part of a paper from a previous course or from another person in completing this assignment. Doing so is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy and the Departmental Policy on Originality. You can read more about these policies in our syllabus. If you have any questions about this assignment, please post them in the 'Ask the Professor' discussion forum so that everyone can benefit from the answers.

THE SCENARIO

Adapted from:

Jones, F. S. (2008). Organizational entry and socialization (OES) – A case study. Retrieved from http://www.shrm.org/Education/hreducation/Documents/OES_Case%20Study_IM_final.pdf

Jill has accepted a position as a business consultant in your company. She has an MBA and five years of experience as a business consultant. Jill was happy at her previous job, but was drawn to your company by promises of high visibility consulting assignments, fast-track promotional opportunities, a higher salary, and performance-based bonuses.

On Jill's first day, she is greeted by the department's administrative assistant, who profusely apologizes that Jill's manager will be unable to meet with her until 11:00 a.m. The manager is in a meeting that is running longer than expected. The administrative assistant escorts Jill to her new office and gives her a stack of papers to complete. She tells Jill that she will be back in about an hour, and shows Jill the restroom and the break room before she hurries back to her cubicle.

Jill looks around her office and notices that she has no supplies. There is a computer on the desk, but she doesn't have a password and can't find any instructions for how to log on. Using her own pen, Jill completes the forms in about 15 minutes. As she's working, a few people pass by her office, but no one stops to greet her and since they all seem rushed, Jill doesn't introduce herself. After about an hour, Jill's manager comes into the office. The manager apologizes for not being available to greet Jill and hands her four large binders, one for each project Jill will be working on. The manager tells Jill she should spend the remainder of the day reading the content in the binders and preparing for a meeting the next morning, when she will present her ideas for how to proceed in each of the projects. The manager also gives Jill a list of 10 online orientation courses and tells her that in accordance with human resources policy she must complete all 10 within the next two weeks. Unfortunately, since the IT department is backlogged, it might take a day or two to get Jill access to the system. In the

meantime, the manager suggests that Jill keep herself busy by reading the project binders and introducing herself to her colleagues. The manager tells Jill that there is a deli across the street where she can have lunch, and that the human resources department is located on the third floor. Someone from HR will take care of the paperwork Jill completed and make sure she gets her employee ID; HR will also give Jill a tour of the facility. The manager then rushes off to another meeting before Jill can ask any questions.

Jill makes her way to the third floor, where she is directed to a classroom filled with rows of computer terminals. Although there are three new hires from other departments present, no one from HR is there to greet her. After about five minutes, an HR representative comes into the room, boots up the computer, introduces himself, and proceeds to read from a series of PowerPoint slides. He answers some questions but is unable to answer all of Jill's questions, such as the effective date for her benefits. Once he finishes his presentation, he introduces a representative from the IT Department, then leaves the room. The IT representative also uses a PowerPoint presentation and rushes through key information, including how to log into the system and how to connect desktop computers to the shared printer. The IT representative tells the employees that all of the information she has presented is available on the company's intranet. When she finishes her presentation, she tells the new employees to return to their departments.

Jill goes back to her department. Two of her new co-workers stop by her office and invite her to lunch. During lunch they warn Jill that it can take a long time to get access to the different computer systems she will need to do her work and tell her she should make daily phone calls to Tech Support. They also tell her that if she has any questions about her consulting assignments, she should ask one of them, because the manager is fairly new and still doesn't really know the company's processes and systems.

After lunch, Jill returns to her office and asks the administrative assistant for a company directory or a departmental contact list. The administrative assistant tells Jill that all contact information is available on the company intranet and that she had called Tech Support to ask them to put a rush on getting access for Jill. She assures Jill that she will have access to the intranet within 24 hours; however, it will take longer to get her access to the project management system and the expense reporting system. Jill goes back to her office and begins reading the project binders so she can prepare for the morning meeting with her boss.

Six Months Later

Jill is struggling to learn the corporate culture, the consulting methods used by the company, and the performance expectations of her job. Her manager and her peers are all very busy and while they willingly answer any questions she asks, no one volunteers any information, so Jill learns a lot by trial and error, or just watching others. She has decided to start looking for another job. She is not the only one to do so. In fact, turnover of business consultants at your company is at an all-time high. The cost

of recruiting, hiring, and developing consultants who resign within six months is negatively affecting the company's bottom line. In addition, clients are beginning to complain about having to get used to a new consultant every six months or so and several have threatened to take their business to another firm. The president of the company has asked the director of human resources to investigate the high turnover and create a strategy for retaining these highly paid, talented employees.

Your Role in the Scenario

You are the manager of the training department. You report to the director of human resources, who discussed the president's concerns in a staff meeting with the department heads in the human resources division. You and the other department heads have been asked to provide recommendations to address the turnover issue.

Last week, you and the manager of the recruitment and staffing department collaborated to conduct a needs assessment by (1) holding focus group meetings with consultants who have been with the company for less than one year, (2) interviewing the managers of these new consultants, and (3) examining exit interview data from consultants who left the company in the past two years. You discovered a theme in the data: current and former consultants did not feel supported in their first few months of hire. Instead, they spent much of their time trying to learn the company's policies and procedures and trying to get access to the different systems. As a result, they made mistakes, missed deadlines, and had to rewrite reports that didn't conform to company guidelines. The managers you interviewed wanted their new consultants to quickly reach high levels of productivity, but they didn't know how to help the new consultants learn what they needed to know.

You believe the company should invest in creating a formal onboarding program for newly hired consultants. The director of human resources is intrigued by your idea but wants to know more. How much will such a program cost? How will the company know if it is effective?

YOUR TASK

Your task is to create a proposal for an onboarding program (also known as an orientation or organizational entry and socialization program) for new consultants in your company. Although you may be tempted to create an onboarding program for all new employees, for purposes of this assignment you should limit your proposal to new consultants only.

The term "orientation" is often used to describe both short-term and longer-term socialization processes. For purposes of this assignment, we will use the following definition of onboarding: **"a strategic process used to attract and engage new employees, reinforce their job selection, acclimate them to the corporate culture,**

and help them to get to meaningful contribution levels as efficiently as possible” (Lamb, 2011, p. 58).

Your proposal should be 10-15 double spaced pages in length, excluding the cover page, reference list, and any optional appendixes. Please use one inch margins and a font size of at least 11 points. Do not include any spaces between paragraphs. You must include a minimum of 10 references in your proposal. You should cite scholarly sources published within the last ten years. **Please note that the websites of consulting firms are not appropriate sources.** There are several articles in the eReserves area (located in the Course Resources module) of our classroom will give you a head start on your research. I strongly recommend that you use the UMUC library to search for additional appropriate articles.

Your proposal must include the following elements (not necessarily in this order; feel free to organize your proposal in a way that makes sense to you):

- A cover memo from you (the manager of training) to your boss (the director of human resources) that clearly states the problem and describes why an onboarding program for new consultants will address the problem.
- An overview of the program, including the objective(s), length, and location of the program (see the Week 5 materials on writing objectives).
- Descriptions of:
 - the elements of the program, the content to be covered, and the training methods to be used.
 - the length of time (hours, days, weeks, months) for each segment of the program.
 - specific methods to ensure transfer of learning (see Week 4 materials).
 - the person or group responsible for each segment of the program.
 - your plan for evaluating the program, including the specific outcomes to be measured and methods for measuring them (see Week 6 materials).
 - estimated costs associated with developing and implementing the program, such costs for materials, guest speakers, facilities, etc.
- A properly formatted reference list. Please use APA format for all citations, quotations, and references.

You may include a table or chart that provides a visual overview your proposed program. Put such supplemental materials in clearly labeled appendixes following your reference list (tables and charts do not count toward the page length requirement). **Support your recommendations about program, including content, length, and methods, with citations from your research about best practices in onboarding programs.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Feel free to give the company a name and to make up details about the composition of the HR function. If you are assuming that the company already has certain elements for

an onboarding program in place, make sure you describe those elements. For example, you can decide that the company already has technology in place that you will use in your proposed onboarding program.

Your proposal will have more impact if you provide an estimate of how much the turnover of consultants costs the company. Here is a link to a turnover cost calculator you can use to estimate these costs:

<https://us.drakeintl.com/hr-tools/cost-of-turnover-calculator.aspx>

For purposes of this assignment, you may estimate costs for the program using realistic made up numbers. You can decide how much consultants in the company earn, the cost of buying off-the-shelf training programs, the cost of a new HRIS system, etc. If you want more realistic numbers, training program vendor sites, such as <http://www.crmlearning.com/>, are a good source of information about off-the-shelf training program costs. What is important is that you identify the total cost for developing and implementing your program.

SUBMITTING YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Submit your assignment electronically via the assignment folder.

**Name your file this way: YourLastNameFirstInitial_Proposal
(Example: DoeJ_Proposal)**

Due date: [08/05/2018], 11:59 p.m. Eastern time

Please see the next page for the grading criteria for this assignment.

Reference

Lamb, J. (2011, May). Onboarding: Your next value-add?. *Employee Benefit Advisor*, 9(5), 58-59.

Criteria for Grading New Employee Onboarding Program Proposal

	A	B	C	F	Points Earned
Quality of Content (55 pts)	Student demonstrated exceptional knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; all required components of proposal were exceptionally well described; all statements and opinions were supported by appropriate citations from the literature. 55 – 50 points	Student demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; most of the required components of proposal were satisfactorily described; most statements and opinions were supported by appropriate citations from the literature. 49 – 44 points	Student demonstrated less than satisfactory knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; some required components of proposal were not satisfactorily described; some statements and opinions were not supported by appropriate citations from the literature. 43 – 39 points	Student demonstrated unsatisfactory knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; several required components of proposal were not satisfactorily described; many statements and opinions were not supported by appropriate citations from the literature. 38 – 0 points	
Comments					
Quality of Research (20 pts)	Student did an exceptional job of integrating course readings with additional research. Student cited more than the required number of references. Sources listed were all scholarly or practitioner journals or academic books from the last ten years. 20 - 18 points	Student did an satisfactory job of integrating course readings with additional research. Student cited the required number of references. Sources listed were primarily scholarly or practitioner journals or academic books from the last ten years. 17 – 16 points	Student did a less than satisfactory job of integrating course readings with additional research. Student may not have cited the required number of references. Some sources listed were not scholarly or practitioner journals or academic books from the last ten years. 15 - 14 points	Student did an inadequate job of integrating course readings with additional research. Student did not cite the required number of references. Many of the sources listed were not scholarly or practitioner journals or academic books from the last ten years. 13 – 0 points	
Comments					

Organization and Mechanics (20 pts)	<p>Student presented information in a logical sequence that was very easy to follow. Proposal had no major spelling and/or grammar errors. The page length requirement was met.</p>	<p>Student presented information in a mostly logical sequence that was fairly easy follow. Proposal had a few minor spelling and/or grammar errors. The page length requirement was met or may have been slightly exceeded.</p>	<p>Student presented information in a confusing sequence that was not easy to follow. Proposal had several major spelling and/or grammar errors. The page length requirement may not have been met.</p>	<p>Student presented information in an illogical sequence that was difficult to follow. Proposal had many spelling and/or grammar errors. The page length requirement was not met.</p>	
Comments					
APA formatting (5 pts)	<p>All citations, quotations, and references were formatted correctly or contained only one or two minor errors.</p>	<p>Most citations, quotations, and references were formatted correctly or contained a few minor errors.</p>	<p>Several citations, quotations, and references were not formatted correctly or contained major errors.</p>	<p>Many citations, quotations, and references were not formatted correctly or contained many errors.</p>	
Comments					
				Total Points Earned (100 points max)	

Overall Comments