**YGT episode 203**

You're listening to, you've got this episode 203. Mmm. Welcome to you've got this, a weekly podcast for higher education professionals looking to increase their confidence and capacity for juggling the day to day demands of an academic life. I'm your host, dr. Katie Linder. In this episode, I thought I would share a little bit about why I am pursuing a P M P or project management professional credential.

Now, this is something that you may have seen as letters following someone's name of if someone has a PMP and you may not have really known what it was, or maybe you're very familiar with this concept, but this is a credential that is offered through the project management Institute. And of course I will link.

All of this in the show notes, in case you're interested, but basically what this credential is is, is, um, uh, testing that you understand how to manage projects. Now there's several layers to this, including a program management layer and a portfolio management layer, which are kind of higher than the project management layer.

But I felt like, um, the PMP or the project management layer was kind of where I was right now and what I was interested in. Learning a little bit more about now you can certainly learn about something without pursuing a credential. So let me tell you why I decided to do this and what it is and how you actually go about it.

So PMI has as, uh, an exam basically that you can take. And in order to qualify for the exam, you need to have a certain number of hours of project management experience that you kind of fill in on this form and explain like how many months of experience you have. And I think I needed like three years of experience basically.

Um, and it changes based on your degree. Um, but if you have a bachelor's degree, it's like you need three to four years of experience. And once you've shown that you have that level of experience and you also have, I've taken a 35 hour training on project management. Um, and let me tell you, there's a lot out there, um, that have different trainings and organizations that are offering this.

I ended up taking an online, um, asynchronous training for a couple hundred dollars. It was basically just a course and it walked me through kind of a lot of the elements of project management. So you take the training, you log your, your time of, of managing projects and then PMI reviews that and gives you permission to take the exam.

So it's not something that you can do do without having a certain amount of experience already under your belt. And the exam content is drawn from this kind of thing. Massive text that is put out by PMI. Um, that is like a knowledge base of project management. So there's all of this language associated with project management.

Um, a lot of lingo, a lot of jargon you have to learn and kind of understand what is the basic level of this language. And the more you understand that language and the definitions and how these things kind of work together, the more successful you're going to be on the exam. So the training that you take and the reviewing of the book, um, can really help you to understand what it is.

You're trying to learn about project management. So this leads to why I decided to go their credential route instead of just like picking up a book on this. I actually feel like the credential route holds me a little bit more accountable to doing the learning and the, just to give you a sense of kind of the overall cost for this, I paid a couple hundred dollars for the training and then the exam, which is combined with a PMI.

Uh, membership, um, which includes the book you need to study for the exam is roughly $500. So this is a credential that if you have project management experience, you can get for less than a thousand dollars, um, which to some people just seems like a lot to other people. When you think about kind of professional development that you would do, doesn't seem like much.

So it's all relative. Um, but basically I'm paying, you know, roughly $750 to have the exam, have the. The training, um, that allows me to take the exam and why this is kind of interesting to me is project management is one of those areas that just feels incredibly transferable. It also is one of those areas that I feel like we do not get any formal training in, in higher education.

And there are some people that I've worked with over the years of my career, who clearly have this background because they use the language of project management. And I just never knew the language. I mean, I kind of picked up a lot of things. I kind of picked up a lot of things along the way. Through like informal experience or as I was managing projects, I had kind of best practices that I would instinctually do.

And then I would kind of come to learn, you know, there was a structure behind that, but this is one of those things that I feel like it's just really nice to have in my own toolkit, as I keep. Kind of going into different leadership positions. And it reminds me a lot of when I used to work with faculty on course design when I was directing a center for teaching and learning and we would go through a lot of the concepts and they'd say like, Oh, I already do that.

I just didn't know what it was called. This feels very similar to me where it's like, there are certain things I'm doing with project management, but I don't know what they're called and I don't know the theories behind them. And I don't really understand, you know, how a lot of the different components fit together.

So for example, one of the things I learned pretty early on in my training was there's five stages of project management that you kind of work through. And there's an initiation phase. There's a planning phase. There's an implementation phase. There's a, um, kind of, um, maintenance phase where you're kind of doing some evaluation work and then there's the closing of a project.

And so you, you go through these five phases, but there's also like 10. Areas that cross over each of those five phases. So for example, knowledge management has different tasks in initiating than it does in implementation. So there's knowledge management, there's communication, there's, you know, all these different things that you're trying to do with these projects.

And you can basically map these things onto like a matrix where you, you can see at any given phase, what are the kinds of things you're supposed to be paying attention to? Well, I love a good matrix. I love a good way of organizing information like that. I find it really helpful. Um, and also, you know, project management comes with a lot of like checklists templates, ways of kind of thinking through things that are very consistent.

And kind of structured and that's something that I really enjoy as well. So, um, I did buy a few books that I am using to kind of work through this. Um, and then I also have the kind of main, um, knowledge base that's provided by PMI that I'll be using to study as well. Uh, my exam is in late November and I will also tell you that the pass rate for this exam, it's like 50%.

So you may hear from me in December that I did not pass. I fully expect that that's possible. And then I'll take it again. Um, and, and try it again. And I've kind of budgeted for that because it's hard as I'm going to try with my studying. This is also not something where I want to give like a ton of pressure to myself, because I think that it's just something that I'm kind of enjoying, and I want to be able to dig into it in a way that feels really like applicable to my current job, meaningful to the kinds of things that I want to work on.

Now the other thing I want to mention about this and kind of my rationale and reasons for why I wanted to do a credential is I have been working with a ton of coaching clients who have been asking for help with project management and they are managing large grants, or they have some other kind of large administrative portfolio that they're working with.

And they never feel like they got this training, but they don't necessarily want to go get a PMP. So I had this idea and this is definitely one of my 20, 21 project ideas. I don't know that I'm going to do it before the end of this year, but I would love to create a kind of training for academics and higher education professionals on project management.

It's not going to be super in depth that you'd be able to like take the exam from it. Like, I, I don't plan on having, um, it tied to, you know, PMI or anything like that. But I do think that there is a need for more open and kind of transparent discussion about project management and a place where you can learn about it, where it's directly applied to higher ed, because I just haven't seen anything like that.

And it's, it's an area of interest for me cause I do some much of it myself, but also because I see, I see this as an area where people are just really lacking in confidence. So I thought, you know, a couple of months back when I was thinking about this and thinking about this might be, you know, a good, um, a program idea for the business is I felt like I needed a credential in order to be able to really be legit and kind of training other people in this.

I felt like it would make sense for me to pursue a credential like this. Yeah. That I could say, you know, not only have I got the experience of it, but I've kind of been trained in the literature around this, and I know that the language, I know the vocab, uh, I know the jargon and, you know, I can kind of walk people through what these things are and how they relate to the higher education experience.

So I'm actually really excited about this. This is like just the level of nerdiness that I'm sure you've come to expect from me. Um, that it's fun for me to pursue things like this, to really deepen my understanding of something. And I especially like to do it when I have some experience under my belt, and I feel like I can really apply what I'm learning to current projects or to things that are happening in my, my life and my job right now.

So that's really exciting. So I'm going to link to, um, pmi.org, which is the project management Institute. And I'll also share some information about the training that I ended up choosing. Um, and you are welcome to take a look at that. If you're kind of interested, I will say that I got the training, uh, on sales.

So if you're interested in, in purchasing a training from this organization that I'm gonna like two, I would watch for that. Um, cause they had like half off sales and things like that throughout the summer. And that might be a good option for you. So if you look at it and you're like, I'm not seeing a $200 training, that may be why.

Um, because I, I purchased, uh, my training when it was on sale. So I will post that, the links to that in the show notes, in case you want to take a look. And of course, I'm also happy to answer questions about this, especially after I go through the exam about what the experience was. I'll probably post a little bit of a debrief for that.

Um, so if you want to reach out with questions or share your own experience, uh, with project management, and of course, if you've taken the PMP exam, I want to hear about that experience too. You can always email me at hello, dr. Katie linder.com. You can tweet to me at Katie double underscore Linder. You can connect with me on Instagram at Katie underscore lender, any way you contact me.

I always love to hear from you. Thanks for listening. Mmm, thanks for listening to this episode of you've got this show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at Katie linder.work/podcasts. If you found this episode helpful, please also consider rating and or reviewing the show in iTunes.

Thanks for listening.