

One of the most notable experiences in my professional development was when I was leading a client-facing project aimed at optimizing internal reporting processes. The plan was well designed, and I believed in the schedule and deliverables. Nevertheless, during implementation, a key stakeholder altered reporting requirements because of changed organizational priorities. This led to loss of cohesion, pressure on the group, and failure to meet interim goals. Regardless of the hard work, the project was unable to deliver the desired effect within the projected time. I did not perceive this as an operational setback but as a learning experience. I conducted a thorough post-project analysis, involving other people working in different divisions, to identify where assumptions had replaced proper validation. I realized that my decision-making process was too linear and focused on efficiency, leaving inadequate flexibility in the project model to handle changing constraints. This has led me to be more iterative when approaching problems and focusing on scenario planning, stakeholder involvement, and continuous feedback. This experience transformed my approach to solving problems in complex, fast-moving environments, teaching me to balance both analytical rigor and situational awareness.

These lessons encourage my desire to enroll in the NYU Stern Part-Time MBA. Maintaining my professional role while studying will help me to utilize classroom knowledge in the workplace. This allows me to contribute to the learning process by exposing me to the real challenges of the work environment. Stern focuses on collaborative learning, adaptive leadership, and values-based decision-making, which best align with the way this experience transformed my approach. At Stern, I will strive to give back to the community through real-time professional experiences as I grow into a principled, resilient leader ready to take on larger responsibilities.