

MGT 445 | Product Management | Davis Full-Time

Spring 2025, Version 02/07/2025

Class meets: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

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Every regular class session – in-person or remote – meets from 1:10pm until 5pm.

Gallagher Hall, GH2310 | **All Sessions**

Remote ZOOM Sessions |

All remote sessions will use the following URL:

<https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/98269708489?pwd=qYRayaK0zuKJal6mijpCFiDubJSFUQ.1>

Team Decision Meetings and Coaching Sessions: Scheduled by teams as needed in person or via Zoom.

COURSE SYNOPSIS

Product management careers present MBAs with the earliest career exposure to profit center management and are frequently steppingstones to broader general management assignments. The product (or brand) manager is accountable for the ultimate success of a product line whether in high technology, consumer products, services, or online businesses. This course covers essential planning and business management skills for aspiring product and general managers.

Product managers drive the success of their product lines by developing and managing the execution of integrated plans across functional areas both inside and outside the enterprise. These activities include industry and competitive analysis, marketing research, customer needs assessments, product definition and planning, product life cycle management, and the development of pricing, positioning, promotional, product, and channel strategies intended to achieve multiple pre-established goals and objectives (e.g. targets for revs and/or profits, mkt share, etc.).

This course is designed to provide an overview of the requirements, issues, and tools involved in marketing products and services using lectures, case studies, and a hands-on, quarter-long competitive simulation. The Markstrat simulation enables student teams (firms) to compete in the management of multiple products in both mature and emerging product categories. The multi-period simulation evolves dynamically, where market outcomes are determined by both changing environmental conditions and the interaction among marketing activity and product life cycle decisions made by teams managing competing firms. Teams have full control over resource allocation decisions and the implementation of strategies for advertising, channel, sales force, R&D, and manufacturing. Products can be spec'd, developed, and positioned to target specific customer segments with varying requirements and growth rates.

REQUIRED TEXTS & READING MATERIALS

- 1) Markstrat Participation Activation Key (PAK): The “book” for this course is the Participation Activation Key and the online Participant’s Handbook. **The simulation begins during our first class session. You MUST purchase your Markstrat Participant Activation Key before the beginning of Session #1.** Instructions to purchase your Participant Activation Key (PAK) are as follows:

Please find below guidelines to purchase your Markstrat 7 - Durable Goods Handbook and Participant Activation Key (PAK) to take part in the Simulation exercise.

1. Go to <https://shop.stratxsimulations.com/> (If nothing happens, copy and paste the link in a new browser)
2. Enter the file number: **P67AA34A**
3. Tick that box indicating you are not a robot and click ENTER
4. Verify the order and register on the ecommerce site
5. Complete the order process

Please note, that all sales are final. There are no returns or refunds. Please click here, to know our terms & conditions.

- 2) You will be able to login stratxsimulations.com to access Markstrat. The Participant Handbook will be provided as soon as you access Markstrat. The Markstrat course number is **A56839**
- 3) MGT 445-1 Course Packet: A course packet containing cases and readings is available through the Equitable access bookshelf tool in canvas.

NOTICE OF ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Academic Conduct exists to support high standards of behavior and to ensure fair evaluation of student learning. Students who violate the Code of Academic Conduct are subject to disciplinary sanctions that include censure, probation, deferred separation, suspension or dismissal from the University of California. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor in writing, misconduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Academic misconduct on exams or other coursework
- Plagiarism
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Misuse of an instructor's course materials or the materials of others
- Lying or fraud
- Intimidation or disruption
- Misuse of University properties or resources

See <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/cac.pdf>

TEAM GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE MADE TO THE CANVAS ASSIGNMENT DROP BOX BY THE DUE DATE.

Team size depends on enrollment but assume 4 students per team (2-3 MBA's and 1-2 BDFs) for now. There will be 5-6 teams in total. **Teams MUST be formed BEFORE Session #1 class meeting. We will begin the simulation in-class during the first session.** I will be sending out a class roster in advance so you can contact your classmates. Ideally, teams should represent a mix of skills. For example, the ideal team will include at least one person that has taken other marketing electives, at least one person with a strong financial or managerial accounting background, and at least one person with Excel financial modeling experience.

As discussed above, TEAM activities will include leading the in-class discussion of one of the assigned case studies. Team case studies will be assigned, and a final schedule of TEAM course activities will be distributed after team formation.

The following is a brief description and expectations for the TEAM Assignments.

1. Team In-Class Case Study Facilitation

Each team is responsible for leading the discussion of one of the assigned case studies. The class facilitation will be graded on the team's preparedness and **creativity in facilitating a high degree of class interaction and healthy debate.** The presenting team's visual aids and materials will be submitted to the instructor for evaluation. **No other team or individual written assignments are required for this case.**

The class discussion should cover key decision(s) and/or issue(s), the class-generated decision alternatives and/or pertinent facts/statistics both qualitatively and quantitatively where applicable, the class's recommendations, the presenting team's key take-aways, or general principles that are applicable to other industries, markets, and/or business processes that you have learned from this case.

2. Corporate Goal Setting Assignment

A unifying concept in product management is 'the marketing planning process,' and (by definition) each period of the Markstrat simulation requires all teams to execute one full 'cycle' of this process. A 'marketing plan' fully documents key required elements, including analysis, specification of goals and objectives, and a wide range of strategic and program decision. This assignment specifically focuses on a subset of these activities: **corporate goal setting, financial objectives, and target segment selection and segment financial objectives.**

Each team will submit an Excel planning spreadsheet detailing the team's process for estimating industry and segment TAM, and selecting target segments and establishing segment market share goals consistent with achieving the team's overall corporate competitive goals and corporate financial objectives and a brief PowerPoint slide deck with supporting assumptions and addressing the following key areas:

- **Determine your firm's competitive goals**
 - Corporate competitive goals - #1 in stock price & cumulative net contribution
- **Translate your firm's competitive goal into measurable financial goals**
 - What are the market and segment TAMs? What share of TAM will you need to garner to achieve your competitive goal?
- **Select target market segments**
 - Which Sonite segments will you target to achieve your firm's financial objectives?
 - Do you need to enter the Vodite market to achieve your firm's financial goals? When?
- **Set market share & financial objectives for each target segment**
 - Does the sum total of your segment financial objectives meet or exceed your company's overall financial goals?

Note that this exercise corresponds with preparation for Period 4 Markstrat decisions. As noted, each period requires a full set of marketing program decisions for the 'short term' (Period 4) but will be determined within the context of this assignment.

3. **Markstrat Marketing Plan.**

This is a complete marketing plan covering strategies and tactics for Period 7 through Period 10 of the Markstrat simulation. Your firm's position relative to competitors may have changed dramatically forcing a reevaluation of your business and competitive goals as set forth in the original Corporate Planning Assignment.

This document will (in some fashion) address all elements of a marketing plan as discussed in class and may include a revision of your firm's corporate goals and financial objectives. To constrain the scope of the deliverable, it will take the form of a 7–10-page plan.

While the required content of your Marketing Plan will be informed by material covered in class, but we note here that it should include:

- a) A statement or re-statement of your firm's business goals and business objectives for the existing and planned product lines that support the achievement of your firm's business goals including target segments, market share, volume goals, revenue, and margin goals. These goals must be quantitative where applicable and reflect and evolution over the time horizon of the simulation.
- b) Analysis of customer and competitive environment, selection of target customer segments and an evaluation of customer needs, preferences, and requirements.
- c) Key strategies for product strategy, product development, pricing, promotion and advertising, and channel selection and programs consistent with achievement of product line business objectives and ultimately your firm's business goals.
- d) Planned resource allocations for product development, pricing strategy, promotional and advertising budgets, and channel selection and programs consistent with key strategies.
- e) Planned tactics to be implemented in support of the key strategies (product, price, promotion, place) for the remainder of the simulation.

4. **Presentation of Team Markstrat Results due Session #10 (30 minutes per team)**

Each team is required to give a 30-minute presentation summarizing their team's post-mortem of the Markstrat simulation. Use effective communication means to convey your message. The goal of the presentation is to report results from the Markstrat simulation including:

- Summary of performance to goals set at Corp Goal Setting & Marketing Plan
- Highlights and lowlights of key strategic decisions made during the simulation.
- What worked, what didn't at key inflection points – e.g., Period 1-3, 4-6, 7-10
- Strategic & competitive challenges along the way

INDIVIDUAL GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

INDIVIDUAL submissions will be made to the CANVAS ASSIGNMENTS drop box. Submissions will be double-spaced, 10-point font, one-inch margins. Coversheet and table of contents are NOT included in the final page count.

Attendance for the full class period is expected, one class meeting absence is acceptable. Additional absences will penalize your grade.

Full class participation and preparation. Assigned items should be studied. When cases are scheduled, be prepared to address all the issues and background.

1) Individual Written Case Analysis (3 cases required)

All individual case write-ups must be submitted prior to class on the day the case is presented in class. We will use 5 to 6 case studies to enhance our learning this quarter. **Each student will be individually responsible for submitting THREE (3) 1–2-page case briefs during the quarter.** This assignment is an individual submission. Each student will submit written analysis for THREE case studies. **Individual write-ups are not required or accepted for the case prepared by your team for in-class facilitation.**

Cases will be graded based on quality of key issues addressed and veracity of recommendations based on facts of the case. Students must take a stand and make recommendations. You may use the questions included with the case study as a guide, but your case brief analysis (2 page maximum) should contain the following:

1. BLUF – BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT
2. Make a RECOMMENDATION or decision(s) SUPPORTED by the facts presented in the case(s)
3. Defend/support your recommendations with facts from the case or your own logic or knowledge
4. Complete any calculations or analysis required to support your recommendations.
5. Do NOT regurgitate the facts of the case.

To provide additional flexibility to students who prefer to devote more time to the Markstrat simulation, there are two features which enable you to reduce your individual case study workload:

- ❖ **PASS OPTION.** Brief one-page write-up providing evidence you read the case. PLEASE INDICATE **PASS** ON SUBMITTED PAPER. Grade=42. You may choose this option for any or all your individual case study write-ups.

2) Individual Course Reflections Paper

- Each student is responsible for submitting a paper describing their course experience. The Course Reflections Paper will be up to 5-pages double-spaced.
- The primary goal of the paper is to provide an introspective review of lessons learned, observations, and insights you drew from your participation in the simulation and the course.
- Tie your Markstrat experience back to marketing theories and concepts discussed in course lectures and case studies. What were some of your key takeaways?
- What were the key lessons and take-aways from the course – lectures, case studies, Markstrat simulation, team management, group decision-making, etc.?
- What was your role on your team and what were your main contributions?
- Best ways to prep for the Individual Course Reflections Paper:
 - Review lecture topics, case study lessons
 - Review Markstrat Post-Mortem Presentation
 - What course concepts were illustrated in during key decision points and strategic inflection points?
 - How did course concepts apply to tactical decisions that you made during the simulation?
 - Did your team dynamic or decision process reflect any of the class discussion on organizational dynamics or product management roles?

4) Final Self- and Team- Assessment

Each student is required to submit a self-assessment based on your contributions to your team. The final assessment will also give a numerical assessment (0%-low to 150%-high) for each member of your team based on relative contribution.

COURSE GRADING

There are 1,000 total points possible for the quarter. Grades will be assigned based on the following point totals:

A	950 and higher	B	825 to 874
A-	900 to 949	B-	800 to 824
B+	875 to 899	C+	<800

The final course grade will be based on a combination of individual and team assignments. These assignments appear in the table below:

Graded Assignments	Points	Comments
Individual Class Participation	100	Attendance & instructor evaluation of in-class participation
Individual Case Study (1–2-page write-up) Individual write-up not accepted for team case.	150	3 cases x 50 points per case. (3 out of 5 cases that your team is NOT presenting)
Team Case Study Upload Case presentation materials to canvas and load on classroom PC before start of class.	100	Team leads 30-45 minute in-class case/topic discussion and will provide necessary visual aids and class materials. Grading based on quality of key points/issues raised, structure and organization of content, and level of class engagement generated during the discussion.
Corp Goal Setting Assignment (xlsx & pptx assumptions)	100	Graded based on the thoroughness of quantitative business goals and the integration of your goals and identified strategies.
Markstrat Marketing Plan (up to 10 pages)	200	The marketing plan will incorporate real time feedback from the simulation. It may require an update of your quantitative goals as well as detailed strategies and tactics by product line for the last 4 periods of the simulation
Individual Reflections Paper (5-pages)	150	Each student is responsible for submitting a paper describing your course experience. The reflections paper submission will be between 5-7-pages.
Team Markstrat Performance Score	100	Based on final team ranking – Period 10 SPI & Cumulative Net Contribution
Team Markstrat Presentation	100	30 min presentation of Markstrat results
Total Possible Score	1,000	

MGT445Y CLASS SCHEDULE

Lowe, Spring 2025

Ssn	Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment	Markstrat
1	WED 4/2	Course Introduction Role of Product Management Markstrat Overview 1	Participant's Handbook	Read in advance of first class meeting	
	TUE 4/8				Period 1 decisions
2	WED 4/9	Marketing Planning Tips: Setting Goals & Objectives Product Life Cycle & Strategies	Participant's Handbook		
	TUE 4/15				Period 2 decisions
3	WED 4/16	Goal Setting Assignment Finance for Product Managers		Case prep #1: Gillette PCD (Marketing Planning & Control) Prof Marc case facilitation	
	TUE 4/22				Period 3 decisions
4	WED 4/23	Pricing Decisions	Basic Quantitative Analysis Article (textpak)	Case prep #2: Crescent Pure (prod positioning) TEAM M case facilitation	
	TUE 4/29@ 10PM			CORP GOAL SETTING (XLSX, PPTX) CANVAS	
	TUE 4/29				Period 4 decisions
5	WED 4/30	Pricing Decisions 2 Channel Considerations Managing Mature Products			
	SAT 5/3				Period 5 decisions
	TUE 5/6				Period 6 decisions
6	WED 5/7	Product Definition & Planning 1 Product Launch Marketing Plan Assignment		Case prep #3: Basecamp (Pricing) TEAM R case facilitation	

Ssn	Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment	Markstrat
7	WED 5/14	Product Definition & Planning 2			
	TUESDAY 5/20@10PM			Markstrat Marketing Plan Submit on CANVAS	
	TUE 5/20				Period 7 decisions
8	WED 5/21	Branding Blue Ocean Strategy Product Portfolio Strategies	HBR Product Policy Article (textpak)	Case prep #4: Chase Sapphire (Branding, Comp Response) TEAM S case facilitation	
	SAT 5/24				Period 8 decisions
	TUE 5/27				Period 9 decisions
9	WED 5/28	Organizational Considerations Product Management Careers Final Assignments		Case prep #5: Clique pens (push vs pull mktg) TEAM T case facilitation FINAL PRESENTATION PREPARATION	
	MON 6/2				Period 10 decisions
10	WED 6/4	Team Presentations Final Markstrat Results		ALL TEAMS - 30-minute Markstrat post- mortem & learnings presentation	
	MONDAY, JUNE 9TH 10am			ALL STUDENTS - up to 5-page Reflections Paper Individual & Team Assessments	Submit on CANVAS Submit on CANVAS

TEAM ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Team	Team Case Study	Team Case Facilitation	Goal Setting Assignment	Marketing Plan	Final Presentatn	Reflections Paper
-	Gillette Personal Care	Ssn #3	-	-	-	-
M	Crescent Pure	Ssn #4	TUE 4/29 10PM	TUE 5/20 10PM	Ssn #10	MON 6/9 10AM
R	Basecamp Pricing	Ssn #6	TUE 4/29 10PM	TUE 5/20 10PM	Ssn #10	MON 6/9 10AM
S	Chase Sapphire	Ssn #8	TUE 4/29 10PM	TUE 5/20 10PM	Ssn #10	MON 6/9 10AM
T	Clique Pens	Ssn #9	TUE 4/29 10PM	TUE 5/20 10PM	Ssn #10	MON 6/9 10AM

MARKSTRAT DECISION DEADLINES

Period	Decision Due Date	Results Available
1	10 PM, TUE, 4/8	11 PM SAME DAY
2	10 PM, TUE, 4/15	11 PM SAME DAY
3	10 PM, TUE, 4/22	11 PM SAME DAY
4	10 PM, TUE, 4/29	11 PM SAME DAY
5	10 PM, SAT, 5/3	11 PM SAME DAY
6	10 PM, TUE, 5/7	11 PM SAME DAY
7	10 PM, TUE, 5/20	11 PM SAME DAY
8	10 PM, SAT, 5/24	11 PM SAME DAY
9	10 PM, TUE, 5/27	11 PM SAME DAY
10*	10 PM, MON, 6/2	In-Class, WED, 6/4

CASE STUDIES & RELATED READINGS

Case #1: Gillette Personal Care Division (Marketing Plan) (587099-PDF-ENG)

Case #2: Crescent Pure (Product Positioning) (9-915-539)

Case #3: Basecamp Pricing (Pricing Strategy) (9-817-067)

Case #4: Chase Sapphire: Creating a Millennial Brand (Branding, Comp Response) (518024-PDF-ENG)

Case #5: Clique Pens (Push-Pull Marketing) (914525-PDF-ENG)

Case #6: Durex China (International& Digital Marketing) (714430-PDF-ENG)

Reading #1: Basic Quantitative Analysis for Marketing (Finance for Product Managers) (584149-PDF-ENG)

Reading #2: Product Policy (8208-PDF-ENG)

SPRING 2025 MARKSTRAT TEAMS

FIRM	Coach	Product Managers
M		
R		
S		
T		