

Task Dependency

A task dependency is a relationship between two tasks in which one task depends on the start or finish of another task in order to begin or end. The task that depends on the other task is the successor, and the task it depends on is the predecessor. Together, these two types of tasks help bind and give structure to a project.

Dependency Types

Start to Start (SS): Task (B) cannot start until task (A) starts. For example, if you have two tasks, "Build Server" and "Install Software", "Install Software" can't begin until "Build Server" begins.

Finish to Finish (FF): Links tasks based on Finish values of each task

Finish to Start (FS): Task (B) cannot start until task (A) finishes. For example, if you have two tasks, "Build Server" and "Install Software," "Install Software" can't start until "Construct fence" finishes. This is the most common type of dependency.

Start to Finish (SF): Task (B) cannot finish until task (A) starts. This dependency type can be used for just-in-time scheduling up to a milestone or the project finish date to minimize the risk of a task finishing late if its dependent tasks slip.

Lag Time

Sometimes you need to model a more complex relationship than a simple finish-to-start dependency. You can enter lag time to represent a delay between the finish of the predecessor and the start of the successor task. For example, if you have two tasks, "Paint wall" and "Hang pictures," you need a delay between the finish of "Paint wall" and the start of "Hang pictures" to allow the paint to dry. You can enter lag time as a duration, such as 1d. For example, if the predecessor has a 4 day duration, entering 1d would result in a 1 day delay between the tasks.

Lead Time

Lead time is an overlap of two tasks, so the successor starts before the predecessor finishes. Adding lead time can be useful if you want to give a successor task a head start. Lead time is entered as negative lag, such as -1d. For example, for the tasks "Construct walls" and "Plaster walls," you can use lead time to begin "Plaster walls" when "Construct walls" is half done.

The advanced dependency format is as follows and must be entered in the Link column:
(Predecessor Task Row Number)(Dependency Type)(Lead/Lag)(Value)(Timescale)

Ex. 2FS+1D

2 = Row number for the predecessor task

FS = Finish to Start Dependency

+ = Represents Lag

1 = Value

D = Unit of Measure (Day)

As a result, task B will start one day after task A is completed.