

PREPARATION FOR SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

The four chapters in this section prepare you for the actual work of software engineering. Chapter 2 serves two purposes: First, research on learning and software engineering are summarized to give you some ideas about how to organize the text's material. Good mental maps of the information ease your learning and help you keep the different methodologies distinct. Second, a case describing an application to be built is introduced: ABC Video rental processing. The application is developed in each of the methodologies we will discuss.

Project managers and software engineers perform different duties and are usually different individuals on a project team. In Chapter 3 you will learn the

roles of project managers and software engineers and how they complement each other. The kinds of questions we will answer are: What does a project manager do? How does it differ from a software engineer? Why is knowledge of management important to a software engineer?

Last, in preparation for developing systems, Chapter 4 defines techniques for gathering the information you need to analyze and design a system. Then, we will discuss how you should act and how to evaluate what you are told during information gathering. Sample dialogues between ABC managers and the software engineering team illustrate the information presented in Chapter 2.