COURSE SYLLABUS

Congressional Budget Process Course (Self-Paced)

Get a clear grasp of the congressional budget process, including budget resolutions, authorizations, appropriations, and reconciliation.

> Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/congressional-budget-process-course-self-paced



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Course Outline

Module 1: Overview of the Budget Process

- Understand the separation of powers and the constitutional foundation of budget authority
- Review the evolution of the federal budget and financial management structure
- Explore the purposes of the federal budget and how Congress fits into the overall process
- Analyze the size, composition, and trends in federal receipts and expenditures

Module 2: Basic Budget Concepts

- Examine how Congress provides authority to spend and types of budgetary authority
- Differentiate between budget authority, obligations, and outlays
- Explore mandatory vs. discretionary spending and the concept of budget baselines
- Understand the federal debt limit and its impact on fiscal policy

Module 3: The Congressional Budget Process

- Understand the composition, leadership, and legislative process in Congress
- Explore the roles of authorization and appropriation committees and subcommittees
- Learn about budget resolutions, authorization acts, and appropriation acts
- Examine the types of appropriations and the use of continuing resolutions

Module 4: Reconciliation and Budget Enforcement

- Understand the reconciliation process and its legislative function
- Explore the Byrd Rule and its role in preventing extraneous provisions
- Learn about sequestration and its use in deficit reduction enforcement
- Analyze how omnibus reconciliation bills are considered and enacted

Module 5: Principal Organizations Providing Support to Congress

- Identify the functions of the Congressional Budget Office and Government Accountability Office

- Understand the role of the Congressional Research Service and Inspectors General
- Learn about the Government Publishing Office and the Congressional Record

Module 6: Course Summary

- Recap the legislative framework and evolution of the budget process
- Summarize the roles of Congress in shaping and enacting the federal budget
- Highlight major laws, processes, and enforcement mechanisms governing budget legislation