COURSE SYLLABUS

Federal Activity Costing, Analysis & Reporting Course

Understand how to analyze and report the costs of federal programs and activities using structured costing methods such as Activity-Based Costing and Earned Value Management.

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/federal-activity-costing-analysis-reporting



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Course Outline

Module 1: Financial Management, Financial Systems and Cost Identification, Analysis and Reporting

- Nature and functions of federal financial systems
- Types of systems: financial, program, and mixed systems
- OMB policies and definitions related to federal systems
- Core financial system management: general ledger, funds, payments, receipts, cost management, reporting
- Internal controls and risk management
- Key federal financial organizations (OMB, Treasury, CBO, GAO, FASAB, CFO Council)
- Overview and phases of the federal budget process
- Financial management of federal assistance programs and grants

Module 2: Policy Requirements Supporting Effective Cost Management

- Relationship between financial management and cost management
- Differences between budgetary and proprietary accounting
- Types of federal funds and account structures
- Policy frameworks that enforce cost identification and reporting

Module 3: Accounting and Financial Reporting in the Federal Government—Part 1

- Differences and similarities between federal and commercial accounting
- Terminology and concepts in federal accounting
- Budgetary and proprietary accounting structures
- Sequence of the accounting process
- Overview of financial statements produced by federal agencies

Module 4: Reporting the Cost of Government

- Year-end reporting requirements for federal agencies

- Standard Federal Financial Statements and their purposes
- Focus on the Statement of Net Cost and its role in accountability
- Auditing and public reporting of costs

Module 5: Federal Cost Accounting Standards

- Overview of FASAB standards and their role
- Examination of SFFAS 4: Managerial Cost Accounting
- Methods of cost finding in federal activities
- Mandatory requirements for cost accounting and reporting

Module 6: Activity-Based Costing in the Federal Government

- Principles and applications of activity-based costing (ABC)
- Determining the cost of goods and services provided by agencies
- Impacts of program funding changes on service delivery
- Benefits of ABC for program managers and public accountability

Module 7: Application of Earned Value Management in the Federal Government

- Concepts and structure of Earned Value Management Systems (EVMS)
- Tracking cost, schedule, and technical performance
- Comparing planned value, earned value, and actual costs
- Using EVM data for improved project and program decisions
- Differences between ABC and EVM