

Financial Acumen for Federal Leaders Course (Self-Paced)

Develop the financial knowledge and confidence needed to lead effectively in the federal environment. This self-paced course covers budgeting, appropriations, and resource management, helping leaders make informed financial decisions that support agency missions.

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: <https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/financial-acumen-for-federal-leaders-course-self-paced>



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Course Outline

Module 1: The Federal Financial Landscape

- Why financial acumen matters for federal leaders
- Key players: OMB, Treasury, GAO, CFO Act agencies
- The federal budget cycle at a glance

Module 2: Appropriations Law Essentials

- Introduction to Federal Appropriations Law
- The Legal Framework
- Reprogramming, transfers, and obligations vs. expenditures

Module 3: Reading and Using Federal Financial Documents

- Apportionments, allotments, and operating plans
- Financial statements and dashboards
- Activity: Decoding a sample agency report

Module 4: Building and Defending a Budget

- From program goals to a budget justification
- Common pitfalls in budget requests
- Activity: Draft a one-page budget narrative

Module 5: Managing Funds and Financial Risk

- Execution monitoring and burn rates
- Audit readiness and internal controls
- Responding to mid-year cuts and continuing resolutions

Module 6: Capstone — Leading with Financial Confidence

- Capstone Activity: Build a Resource Decision Brief
- Closing: Key takeaways and next steps