

Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) Refresher Course

Stop guessing and start estimating — build accurate, defensible, FAR-compliant Independent Government Cost Estimates in a single day.

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/mastering-the-igce>



support@graduateschool.edu •
[\(888\) 744-4723](tel:(888)744-4723)

Course Outline

Module 1: The Strategic Foundation — The IGCE in the Acquisition Lifecycle

- Define the Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) and its statutory and regulatory basis
- Position the IGCE within the acquisition lifecycle and its role in budgeting and source selection
- Distinguish the IGCE from the government estimate, budget, and independent cost estimate
- Recognize how a well-built IGCE supports fair and reasonable price determinations

Module 2: Breaking Down the Requirement — From Words to Worksheets

- Translate a Statement of Work (SOW) or PWS into discrete, estimable cost elements
- Build a work breakdown structure (WBS) that maps requirements to worksheets
- Identify assumptions, constraints, and cost drivers embedded in the requirement
- Organize estimate inputs for traceability and repeatability

Module 3: The 5 Methods of Estimation

- Compare the five estimating methods: analogy, parametric, engineering (bottom-up), extrapolation, and expert opinion
- Select the appropriate method based on data availability and requirement type
- Apply each method to representative cost elements
- Understand the strengths, limitations, and risk profile of each approach

Module 4: Labor Rates, Indirect Costs & Market Research

- Develop direct labor rates and map labor categories to the requirement
- Apply indirect cost factors—fringe, overhead, G&A, and fee/profit
- Conduct market research to validate rates and pricing assumptions
- Build a fully burdened labor cost from base rates through applied factors

Module 5: Defensibility, Escalation & Documentation

- Apply escalation and inflation factors across multi-year periods of performance
- Document sources, assumptions, and methodology to withstand scrutiny

- Build an audit trail that supports the estimate's defensibility
- Recognize common documentation gaps that undermine an IGCE

Module 6: Agile Estimation & Final Review

- Estimate agile and outcome-based requirements using story points and capacity
- Convert points to dollars and apply hybrid estimating approaches
- Review the completed IGCE for completeness, accuracy, and defensibility
- Finalize the estimate using a reusable, formula-driven template