

Federal Budget Process

Learn how the federal budget is created with emphasis on planning, justification, and legal constraints.

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/federal-budget-process>



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Course Outline

Module 1: Federal Budget Overview

- Learning outcomes
- Overview of the federal budget process
- The changing federal budget environment
- The financial crisis of 2007–2008
- Definition of budget terms (using Appendix B)
- The structure and enormity of the federal budget
- The phases of the federal budget process
- Module 1 summary
- Module 1 knowledge check

Module 2: Budget Formulation

- Learning objectives
- Preparation of the President's budget
- Budget formulation time line
- Budget formulation process
- Budget documents
- Agency budget justification to OMB
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- The current performance-based budget environment
- Definitions associated with performance management
- Making performance-based budgeting work at the organizational level
- Current performance-based budgeting and reporting requirements
- Revolving funds
- Importance of political relationships
- Module 2 summary

- Case study and exercises 2-1 and 2-2
- Bonus exercise 2-3
- Module 2 knowledge check

Module 3: The Federal Budget and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- Module 3 topics
- Understanding the role of OMB in budgeting
- OMB's review process
- OMB and congressional action

Module 4: Congressional Action

- Overview of congressional committees
- The role of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
- Congressional review and approval process

Module 5: Budget Execution

- Enactment of appropriations
- Warrants, apportionments, and allocations
- Obligations, expenditures, and reporting
- Quarterly and year-end reports

Module 6: Review and Audit

- Role of the GAO and inspectors general
- Auditing and evaluation of federal programs

Module 7: Final Course Exercise

Case study and final exercise