



Advanced Accounting & Finance Management



7 - 18 April 2025



Milan (Italy)

Advanced Accounting & Finance Management

course code: M3050 From: 7 - 18 April 2025 Venue: Milan (Italy) - course Fees: 6750 Euro

The Course

This course offers an in-depth overview of the accounting and finance world. Part 1 emphasized the internal workings of the finance/control function as it communicates with external and internal constituencies to provide information for decision making under uncertainty. Part 2 emphasizes the capital markets impact on corporate finance, risk, and governance.

No preparation is necessary except to bring an open mind and a budget document or other financial documents of interest.

By combining techniques with analysis, problems and examples with real case studies, and supporting theories the course provides delegates with key finance terminology and practice. This course not only presents the key financial tools generally used, but also explains the broader context of how and where they are applied to obtain meaningful answers. It provides a conceptual backdrop both for the financial/economic dimensions of strategic business management and for understanding the nature of financial statements, analyzing data, planning and controlling.

The course is targeted at providing a university-quality 'MBA' overview of finance/accounting, planning/control, risk management, and corporate governance. Participants are expected to be high-potential learners seeking the next level of learning. Additional bibliographies, readings, and spreadsheets will be provided as takeaways.

The Structure

Module 1 - **Accounting, Decision Making, & Financial Communication**

Module 2 - **Finance, Risk Management & Corporate Governance**

The Goals

This course will help you learn how to:

- Specify the exact nature and scope of corporate financial reporting
- Identify and criticize specific concepts, rules, and procedures are in place for corporate financial reporting
- Understand multiple interpretations of financial statements via IFRS, FAS, SEC, etc
- Integrate risk management and corporate governance
- Understand the content of and relationships between financial statements (income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows)
- Understand how to use financial statements to evaluate the financial performance of an organization
- Understand discounted cash flow (DCF) techniques and their application to financial decision making
- Understand the budgeting process, including performance evaluation

- Understand cost behavior and its impact on management decisions
- Learn how to communicate and to question financial information effectively

The Process

This workshop will be highly participatory and your seminar leader will present, guide and facilitate learning, using a range of methods including discussions, case studies and exercises. Where appropriate, these will include real issues brought to the workshop by delegates.

Lessons learned from the seminar will be applied to your own organization. Key performance indicators (KPIs) for the critical success factors (CSFs) will focus attention on high priority action plans for taking back to your organization.

The Benefits

- Improved appreciation for the finance/accounting/governance approach
- Better integration of business plans and strategic intent
- Reduced inter-functional territorial battles
- Improvements in communications between staff and line management
- Higher productivity during the decision making process
- Increased skill set in all phases of finance/accounting/governance
- Greater ability to participate in and to lead the finance/accounting process
- Recognizing the increased professionalism to deal with the current and future topics
- Increased recognition by the organization of their learning and professional commitment
- Challenging themselves in an immersive learning environment

The Core Competencies

Attendees will gain in the following competencies as a result of the program:

- Using financial information for guiding decisions
- Clarifying KPIs across different functions
- Building strategic thinking and implementation orientation into their professional lives
- Challenging the status quo of finance/accounting, budgeting, and decision making
- Recognizing the value of external standards, governance requirements, and measurements of qualitative elements
- Identifying Value Creation principles as the driving force for decision making

The Programme Content

Module 1:

Accounting, Decision Making, & Financial Communication

Accounting: An introduction

- What is accounting?
- What forms can accounting take
- Definition and importance of profit
- Decision scenarios explored
- Funding business operations
- Who is interested in profit?
- Cash vs. Accrual accounting

- Cash flow forecasting and improvement
- Accounting policies chosen by companies
- Accounting standards

Financial Statements, Accounting Policies, and Reporting Standards

Income Statement - basic components

- Revenues & the questions
- Direct/variable/product costs
- Indirect/fixed/period costs
- Mixed costs
- Non-cash deductions: the what, the why & the how
 - Depreciation: various methods explored
 - Amortization: impairment test
 - Depletion: when & how
- The difference between profit and cash
- A closer look at costs and expenses
- Profit calculations
- Summarizing profit statements and extracting the key figures

Balance Sheet

- Assets - current & long term
- Liabilities - current & long term
- Equity - components
- Capital employed - options
- Managing the working capital cycle

Cash Flow Statement

- Operating sources/uses
- Investing sources/uses
- Financing sources/uses

Making and Communicating Decisions using Budgets

- The master budget
- The budgeting as a planning tool, a control mechanism, a communications device & value creation
- Budgeting Sales to “drive” the correct budget
- Operating budget components
- Financial budget
- Pro Forma Financial Statements
- Cash Budgets
- Capital budget
- Interrelationship of Financial Projections
- Dynamics and Growth of the Business System - a model review
- Flexible vs. traditional budgets - the pros & cons
- Variance analysis as a tool for improvement & communications
- Price and volume effects within variance analysis: state of the art

Financial vs. Management Accounting: differences and similarities

- Objectives of Managerial Accounting
- Managerial Versus Financial Accounting:
- Role of the Managerial Accountant
- Financial accounting: what we show to the public
- Objectives of financial accounting
- Role of financial accountant
- Cost terminology: variable, fixed, controllable, non-controllable, incremental, sunk, opportunity, and relevant
- Cost behaviors in Cost-Volume-Profit scenarios: contribution margin and fixed costs
- Breakeven and targeted net income scenarios
- Cost/Benefit analysis

Ultimatum Goal of Planning - Valuation, Business Performance & Decision Making

- Definitions of Value
- Responsibility centers: cost, profit, and investment
- Measuring responsibility center performance
- Segment reporting internally and externally
- Business Valuation from multiple perspectives
- Managing for Shareholder Value
- Shareholder Value Creation in Perspective
- Evolution of Value-Based Methodologies in planning and budgeting
- Creating Value in Restructuring and Combinations beyond planning and reporting- the case for real change!

Module 2:

Finance, Risk Management & Corporate Governance

What is Finance & Working Capital - liquidity or bankruptcy

- Finance is a numbers game
- Yet finance is more than the numbers
- The three major components of finance
- Working capital (WC) defined
- Relationship to current ratio
- Components of WC
- Inventory
- Accounts receivable
- Cash
- Accounts payable
- Notes payable
- The critical ratios to compute
- What should they be & why
- The questions to ask
- The answers you want

Capital Structure - what it is & why it is important

- Equity capital - what it is
- Equity capital - calculating its costs/required rate of return

- Debt capital – what is it really
- Debt capital – calculating its costs/required rate of return
- Weighted Cost of Capital (WACC) – why it is so important
- Calculating your WACC
- When & how to use WACC
- Leverage: two-edged sword - defined
- Operating leverage - calculated
- Financial leverage - calculated
- Combined leverage – Wow! Look at the impact

CAPEX - Analysis of Investment Decisions with What-if Risks

- Cash Flows and the Time Value of Money
- Discuss the capital project evaluation process
- Ideas for the future with a multiple time periods horizon
- Estimating cash flows within the business system
- Net present value (NPV) & Internal Rate of Return (IRR) as preferred methods
- Profitability Index (PI) & Modified Internal Rate of Return (MIRR) as reasonable alternatives
- Defining the approval criteria and review process
- Post-implementation audits of capital projects
- Refinements of Investment Analysis
- Dealing with Risk and Changing Circumstances – how do we explain?
- Cost of Capital and Return Standards
- Benchmarking Discount & Hurdle rates

Risk Management as an integral part of Corporate Governance

- Understanding uncertainty and risk/opportunity
- Identifying strategic financial risks
- Identifying operational risks
- Identifying functional financial risks
- Assessing financial risks in each perspective
- Finding our personal risk profile (appetite for risk)
- Clarifying desired outcomes, expected outcomes, and actual outcomes
- Performance measures – the need for FRM/ERM
- Quantitative and qualitative risks
- Developing FRM/ERM strategy – do we need a CRO?
- Other risk issues to be concerned with: Joint ventures, alliances, product liability, environmental risk, outsourcing risk, growth risk, R&D risk, natural disasters, catastrophic risks, supply chain risk, reputation risk, and psychology of risk among others

Corporate Governance

- What is Corporate Governance?
- Corporate Governance environment
- Relevance of Corporate Governance
- Perspectives on Corporate Governance
 - Shareholders vs. Stakeholders
 - Voluntary vs. Enforcement
 - 1-tier vs. 2-tier boards
 - Chairman/CEO duality
 - The independent director
- Corporate Governance models

- Structure & practices
- Emerging trends in Corporate Governance
- Principal-Agent theory and applications
- Independence in fact versus appearance