Advanced Cost Accounting and Decision Support Course

30 May – 3 June 2027
Chicago

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Training Center

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Advanced Cost Accounting and Decision Support Course

Ref: 1049_177398 **Date:** 30 May – 3 June 2027 **Location:** Chicago **Fees:** 12000 Euro

Overview

Advanced Cost Accounting and Decision Support Course is a one-week advanced course for cost accountants, management accountants, financial controllers, finance business partners, and managers, who leave with a Cost Decision Support Model. Participants apply advanced cost accounting, cost behavior analysis, standard costing and variance analysis, activity-based costing, strategic cost management, and profitability analysis across manufacturing and service settings. Agile Leaders Training Center develops cost modeling and decision support capability.

Who Should Attend

- Cost accounting teams responsible for product, service, process, and customer cost visibility
- Management accounting teams responsible for planning, control, and decision analysis
- Financial control teams responsible for standards, variances, allocations, and performance explanations
- Finance business partners responsible for converting cost information into management actions
- Operational finance teams responsible for margin, capacity, and resource-use decisions

The course assumes participants can interpret management accounts and build spreadsheet analyses, and it leaves introductory bookkeeping and financial reporting outside its scope.

Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and industries that require traceable costs and decision-relevant profitability information.

- Cost accounting, management accounting, financial control, and finance business partnering
- Operations finance, commercial finance, pricing, and performance management
- Manufacturing, engineering, process industries, and logistics
- Professional services, healthcare, hospitality, and shared services
- Utilities, infrastructure, technology, and public-service organizations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Analyze cost behavior and select decision-relevant cost concepts
- Compare absorption, marginal, activity-based, and throughput approaches
- Build standard-cost models and diagnose operational variances
- Apply target and life-cycle costing to margin decisions
- Evaluate product, service, and customer profitability
- Integrate cost evidence into operational and strategic recommendations

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Course Agenda

Day 1: Cost Architecture and Behavior

- Cost Object, Purpose, and Decision Matrix
- Fixed, Variable, Step, and Mixed Cost Behavior Model
- High-Low and Regression Cost Estimation Methods
- Absorption and Marginal Costing Reconciliation
- Relevant Cost and Opportunity Cost Decision Screen

Day 2: Cost Drivers and Allocation Systems

- Overhead Allocation and Reciprocal Service Method
- Activity-Based Costing Pool and Driver Map
- Time-Driven Activity-Based Costing Equation
- Resource Consumption and Causal Cost Model
- Cost-System Selection and Governance Checklist

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Day 3: Standards and Variance Diagnosis

- Standard Cost Card and Responsibility Map
- Material Price, Usage, Mix, and Yield Variance Model
- Labor Rate, Efficiency, Mix, and Yield Variance Model
- Variable and Fixed Overhead Variance Bridge
- Planning, Operational, and Investigation Variance Dashboard

Day 4: Strategic Cost and Profitability Decisions

- Target Costing and Value Engineering Gap Analysis
- Life-Cycle Costing and Total Cost Profile
- Throughput Accounting and Constraint Contribution Model
- Product, Service, and Customer Profitability Cube
- Make-or-Buy, Pricing, and Capacity Decision Tree

Day 5: Cost Decision Support Practice

- Exercise: Estimate Cost Behavior from Operating Data
- Exercise: Redesign an Overhead Allocation Model
- Exercise: Diagnose Standard-Cost Variances
- Exercise: Compare Profitability and Constraint Scenarios
- Capstone Exercise: Cost Decision Support Model

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Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities that connect cost records, operating drivers, profitability, and management choices.

- Suggested activity: classify mixed costs and test alternative cost-behavior assumptions
- Suggested activity: trace overhead through activities and compare allocation outcomes
- Suggested activity: separate planning and operational variances and assign investigation priorities
- Suggested activity: defend a product, customer, or capacity recommendation using cost evidence

FAQs

Who suits advanced cost accounting and decision support training?

Experienced cost and management accounting practitioners, controllers, finance partners, and operational finance managers suit the training. Participants should already interpret management accounts and use spreadsheets for analysis.

How does advanced cost accounting differ from activity-based costing training?

Advanced cost accounting compares several systems and decision methods, while activity-based costing training concentrates on activity pools, drivers, and allocations. This course treats activity-based costing as one option within a broader decision toolkit.

How does standard costing and variance analysis support decisions?

Standard costing and variance analysis separate price, usage, efficiency, volume, planning, and operational effects. The resulting evidence helps managers locate causes, assign responsibility carefully, and prioritize investigation.

Which costing method should an organization use?

The suitable method depends on the decision, cost structure, operating constraints, data quality, and required causal accuracy. A governed model may combine methods rather than force one system onto every decision.

Conclusion

Participants take back a Cost Decision Support Model containing cost behavior assumptions, allocation logic, standards, variance bridges, profitability views, decision screens, and governance checks. It makes cost conclusions traceable to operating evidence. Finance teams can use it to compare alternatives and explain recommendations.