

ADVANCED BUDGETING & COST MANAGEMENT



GENTEX[®]
TRAINING CENTER



Introduction

Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management Training Course develops professionals who can build, defend, and control a budget in a business that keeps changing. Participants work through advanced budgeting methods, cost behaviour, driver-based forecasting, and cost reduction discipline as one connected financial practice. The programme moves past basic variance reporting into the analysis that actually changes decisions. As a result, learners gain a method for planning costs and holding them accountable. Furthermore, the course strengthens commercial judgement, forecast reliability, and the financial control that protects margins.

Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management Course Objectives

- Judge when to use incremental, zero-based, and rolling budgeting.
- Apply activity-based budgeting (ABB) and driver-based budgeting models.
- Analyse cost behaviour across fixed, variable, semi-variable, and step costs.
- Apply activity-based costing (ABC) and activity-based management (ABM).
- Build reliable forecasts with driver-based forecasting and rolling forecasts.
- Calculate break-even and target costing for pricing and margin decisions.
- Apply standard costing and analyse price, volume, mix, and yield variances.
- Use kaizen costing and continuous improvement to reduce cost structurally.
- Manage cost of quality, overhead absorption, and capacity costs.
- Run a disciplined budget review with re-forecasting and corrective action.

Course Methodology

- Interactive sessions built on budgeting and cost management cases.

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- Workshops on budget method selection, ABC modelling, and variance analysis.
- Group exercises on cost reduction and forecast reliability.
- Hands-on practice with driver-based budgets, standard costing, and CVP models.
- Simulation of a budget review, a cost reduction mandate, and a re-forecast.
- Facilitator coaching and peer review on personal cost management plans.

Who Should Take This Course

- Finance managers, analysts, and management accountants.
- Budget officers and cost controllers.
- Department heads accountable for cost targets.
- Operations and manufacturing cost leaders.
- Business partners supporting commercial decisions.
- Consultants advising on cost reduction and planning.

Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management Course Outlines

Day 1: Advanced Budgeting Frameworks and Method Choice

- The budget cycle and its link to strategy and targets.
- Incremental, zero-based, and rolling budgeting compared.
- When each method earns its cost of administration.
- Beyond budgeting principles and modern planning practice.
- Budget ownership, governance, and approval routes.





- Common budgeting failures and behavioural traps.
- Case discussion: a budget process that consumed more than it controlled.

Day 2: Cost Behaviour and Cost Architecture

- Fixed, variable, semi-variable, and step costs.
- Relevant range, capacity costs, and committed costs.
- Direct versus indirect cost and overhead recovery.
- Absorption costing versus marginal costing and their effects on profit.
- Activity-based costing (ABC) modelling steps.
- Activity-based management (ABM) and cost driver analysis.
- Workshop: mapping the cost architecture of a business unit.

Day 3: Driver-Based Budgeting and Reliable Forecasting

- Identifying cost drivers and revenue drivers.
- Driver-based budgeting versus line-item budgeting.
- Activity-based budgeting (ABB) in practice.
- Rolling forecasts and forecast accuracy measurement.
- Scenario and sensitivity analysis for planning.
- Working capital and cash implications of budget choices.
- Exercise: building a driver-based budget for a service line.

Day 4: Standard Costing, Variance, and Decision Support

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- Standard costing and setting standards realistically.
- Material, labour, and overhead variance analysis.
- Price, volume, mix, and yield variance interpretation.
- Contribution margin and break-even analysis.
- Target costing and value engineering for margin protection.
- Relevant costing for outsourcing, make-or-buy, and pricing.
- Simulation: diagnosing variance causes and recommending action.

Day 5: Cost Reduction, Control, and Budget Governance

- Cost reduction versus cost cutting and protecting capability.
- Kaizen costing, continuous improvement, and waste elimination.
- Cost of quality: prevention, appraisal, and failure costs.
- Budget control, commitment accounting, and spend gates.
- Re-forecasting, corrective action, and accountability routines.
- Reporting cost performance to executives clearly.
- Capstone: presenting an advanced budgeting and cost management plan.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management, participants will gain a practical command of budget method selection, cost architecture, driver-based forecasting, and cost control discipline. They will acquire skills in activity-based costing, variance analysis, target costing, and budget governance that protect margin and improve planning reliability. Gentex Training Center designs the programme to help professionals plan costs and hold them accountable.





FAQs

Q1 What is the "Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management" course about?

It develops professionals who can build, defend, and control a budget in a business that keeps changing. The course spans advanced budgeting frameworks, cost behaviour and architecture, driver-based budgeting and forecasting, standard costing and variance analysis, and cost reduction and budget governance.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management" course?

You gain a method for planning costs and holding them accountable. The course improves budget method choice, makes forecasts more reliable, sharpens variance and cost driver analysis, and gives you cost reduction discipline that protects capability rather than cutting blindly.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management" course?

You will develop four core skills: budget framework selection and design, cost architecture and activity-based costing, driver-based budgeting and forecast reliability, and variance analysis with cost reduction governance.



Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management" course?

The course covers incremental, zero-based, rolling, and activity-based budgeting, beyond budgeting principles, cost behaviour analysis across fixed, variable, semi-variable, and step costs, absorption versus marginal costing, activity-based costing (ABC) and activity-based management (ABM), driver-based budgeting, rolling forecasts and forecast accuracy measurement, scenario and sensitivity analysis, standard costing with material, labour, and overhead variances, price, volume, mix, and yield variance analysis, contribution margin and break-even analysis, target costing and value engineering, relevant costing, kaizen costing, cost of quality, commitment accounting and spend gates, and re-forecasting routines.

Q5 How is the "Advanced Budgeting & Cost Management" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply it to real work such as rebuilding a budget on a driver-based model, analysing a cost overrun to its root cause, running a target costing exercise for a new product, and leading a cost reduction programme with protected capability. The same methods support outsourcing decisions and executive cost reporting.