

COST PLANNING, CONTROL & OPTIMIZATION



GENTEX[®]
TRAINING CENTER



Introduction

Cost Planning, Control & Optimization Training Course develops professionals who can design a cost structure, hold it under control, and reduce it without damaging the business. Participants work through cost architecture, standard costing, variance analysis, activity-based costing, and structured optimisation as one connected discipline. The programme links planning decisions with the drivers that actually move cost. As a result, learners gain a working method rather than a single technique. Furthermore, the course strengthens analytical rigour, cost discipline, and the reporting that keeps cost performance visible and accountable.

Cost Planning, Control & Optimization Course Objectives

- Explain cost architecture and how cost structure affects profitability.
- Apply cost classification and cost behaviour analysis.
- Apply job costing, process costing, and activity-based costing (ABC).
- Apply activity-based management (ABM) and cost driver analysis.
- Set standards and apply standard costing to monitor performance.
- Analyse price, volume, mix, and yield variances.
- Apply contribution margin and cost-volume-profit (CVP) analysis to decisions.
- Apply target costing and value engineering for margin protection.
- Apply kaizen costing, cost of quality, and continuous improvement.
- Design cost control routines, reporting, and optimisation governance.

Course Methodology

- Interactive sessions built on cost planning and optimisation cases.

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- Workshops on cost architecture, ABC modelling, and standard setting.
- Group exercises on variance investigation, target costing, and cost reduction.
- Hands-on practice with CVP models, cost of quality analysis, and variance reports.
- Simulation of a cost overrun investigation and an optimisation programme.
- Facilitator coaching and peer review on personal cost management plans.

Who Should Take This Course

- Cost managers, analysts, and management accountants.
- Finance managers and controllers.
- Operations and production cost leaders.
- Procurement and supply chain professionals.
- Continuous improvement and process specialists.
- Consultants advising on cost reduction and optimisation.

Cost Planning, Control & Optimization Course Outlines

Day 1: Cost Architecture and Cost Behaviour

- Cost classification: fixed, variable, semi-variable, and step costs.
- Relevant range and capacity cost concepts.
- Direct versus indirect cost and overhead recovery.
- Absorption costing versus marginal costing and profit effects.
- Cost structure and operating leverage implications.
- Cost drivers and their identification.
- Case discussion: a business that cut cost and damaged capability.





Day 2: Costing Methods and Decision Support

- Job costing and process costing applications.
- Activity-based costing (ABC) modelling steps.
- Activity-based management (ABM) and driver analysis.
- Contribution margin and break-even analysis.
- Cost-volume-profit (CVP) analysis for pricing and mix decisions.
- Relevant costing for make-or-buy and outsourcing.
- Workshop: building an ABC model for a process or service.

Day 3: Standard Costing and Variance Analysis

- Setting standards realistically and reviewing them.
- Material, labour, and overhead variance calculation.
- Price, volume, mix, and yield variance decomposition.
- Interpreting variances and avoiding misleading conclusions.
- Root cause investigation and the 5 Whys.
- Rolling re-forecast of cost performance.
- Exercise: decomposing a significant cost overrun.

Day 4: Target Costing, Quality Cost, and Optimisation

- Target costing and value engineering for new products.
- Kaizen costing and continuous improvement discipline.
- Cost of quality: prevention, appraisal, and failure costs.
- Cost reduction versus cost cutting and capability protection.
- Process analysis and waste elimination basics.

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- Business case preparation for optimisation initiatives.
- Simulation: designing a cost optimisation programme with owners.

Day 5: Cost Control, Reporting, and Governance

- Designing cost control routines, limits, and approval gates.
- Commitment accounting and spend control discipline.
- Cost dashboards, KPIs, and reporting cadence.
- Benefits tracking and verification of optimisation results.
- Governance, ethics, and avoiding short-term value destruction.
- Building cost management capability across the business.
- Capstone: presenting a cost planning, control, and optimisation plan.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Cost Planning, Control & Optimization, participants will gain a practical command of cost architecture, costing methods, standard costing, and structured optimisation. They will acquire skills in variance analysis, target costing, cost of quality, and control governance that protect margins and capability at the same time. Gentex Training Center designs the programme to help professionals plan, control, and reduce cost with judgement.

FAQs





Q1 What is the "Cost Planning, Control & Optimization" course about?

It develops professionals who can design a cost structure, hold it under control, and reduce it without damaging the business. The course spans cost architecture and cost behaviour, costing methods and decision support, standard costing and variance analysis, target costing, quality cost and optimisation, and cost control, reporting and governance.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Cost Planning, Control & Optimization" course?

You gain a working method rather than a single technique. The course improves cost structure understanding, sharpens costing and variance analysis, strengthens target costing and quality cost practice, and gives you optimisation governance that protects capability while reducing spend.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Cost Planning, Control & Optimization" course?

You will develop four core skills: cost architecture and behaviour analysis, costing methods including activity-based costing, standard costing with variance decomposition, and cost optimisation with control governance and reporting.



Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Cost Planning, Control & Optimization" course?

The course covers cost classification and cost behaviour analysis, the relevant range, absorption versus marginal costing, operating leverage analysis, cost driver identification, job costing, process costing, activity-based costing (ABC) and activity-based management (ABM), contribution margin, break-even and cost-volume-profit analysis, relevant costing, standard costing with material, labour and overhead variances, price, volume, mix and yield variance decomposition, root cause analysis and the 5 Whys, rolling re-forecasts, target costing and value engineering, kaizen costing, cost of quality (prevention, appraisal, failure), waste elimination, business case preparation, commitment accounting, cost KPI dashboards, and benefits tracking and verification.

Q5 How is the "Cost Planning, Control & Optimization" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply it to real work such as building an ABC model for a service line, decomposing a significant cost overrun, running a target costing exercise for a new product, designing a cost optimisation programme with owners, and presenting cost performance and savings to management. The same methods support make-or-buy decisions and cost of quality reviews.