PRINT ESTIMATING AND PRODUCTION PLANNING



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Introduction

A print job sold at the wrong price cannot be rescued by good production. Estimating and planning decide the margin before the first sheet is printed, and both depend on accurate data about paper, machine speed, setup time, and waste. This Print Estimating and Production Planning Training Course gives print estimators, production planners, and operations managers a complete working method for that discipline. Participants learn cost structure, sheet and imposition calculation, machine hour rates, estimating software logic, scheduling and capacity planning, and performance measurement.

Print Estimating and Production Planning Course Objectives

- Apply print cost structure: material, labour, machine, and overhead.
- Calculate sheet sizes, imposition, and paper requirement accurately.
- Apply machine hour rate calculation and cost allocation methods.
- Estimate setup, run, and make-ready time for each process.
- Calculate waste allowance for each production stage.
- Use estimating software and pricing templates consistently.
- Prepare quotations that protect margin and cover risk.
- Build production schedules with capacity and constraint checks.
- Plan paper, ink, and consumable availability against the schedule.
- Measure performance with estimate accuracy, on-time delivery, and waste rate.

Course Methodology

- Facilitated sessions built on real job tickets, quotations, and production records.
- Case workshops on underpriced jobs, missed deadlines, and waste overruns.

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- Sheet, imposition, and machine rate calculation exercises with live data.
- Estimating software and quotation template practice sessions.
- Group exercise on an estimating and planning improvement plan.

Who Should Take This Course

- Print estimators and costing officers.
- Production planners and schedulers.
- Print production and operations managers.
- Prepress, press, and finishing supervisors.
- Sales and customer service staff quoting print work.
- Purchasing and inventory staff for print materials.

Print Estimating and Production Planning Course Outlines

Day 1: Print Cost Structure and Estimating Fundamentals

- Cost elements: substrate, ink, plates, labour, machine, and overhead.
- Fixed versus variable cost in a print shop.
- Machine hour rate calculation and cost allocation.
- Overhead absorption and recovery methods.
- Break-even analysis and margin setting.
- Estimating accuracy and common costing errors.
- Quotation structure and terms.

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Day 2: Paper, Sheet, and Imposition Calculation

- Standard sheet sizes, weights, and calliper.
- Paper requirement calculation by format and quantity.
- Imposition schemes and press sheet utilisation.
- Cutting, folding, and binding allowance calculation.
- Waste and spoilage allowance by stage.
- Substrate selection and cost comparison.
- Stock and replenishment considerations.

Day 3: Time, Rate, and Process Estimating

- Make-ready, run, and wash-up time estimation.
- Speed and throughput data by machine type.
- Setup and changeover time reduction.
- Platemaking, prepress, and digital workflow time.
- Finishing operations: cutting, folding, stitching, and binding.
- Outsourcing versus in-house cost comparison.
- Job costing against estimate after completion.

Day 4: Production Planning and Scheduling

- Job sequencing rules and priority setting.
- Capacity planning by machine and shift.
- Finite scheduling and bottleneck management.
- Setup optimisation and job grouping.
- Paper and consumable availability planning.

- Rush jobs, overruns, and schedule recovery.
- Digital workflow and production management systems.

Day 5: Performance, Quality, and Improvement

- KPIs: estimate accuracy, waste rate, makeready time, and on-time delivery.
- Waste measurement and reduction programmes.
- Quality control and rework prevention.
- Variance analysis between estimate and actual cost.
- Continuous improvement in estimating and planning.
- Reporting and management review routines.
- Building an estimating and planning improvement roadmap.

Conclusion

By successfully completing the Print Estimating and Production Planning Training Course, participants will have acquired a thorough working knowledge of print cost structure, sheet and imposition calculation, machine hour rates and process estimating, production planning and scheduling, and the performance measurement that improves estimating accuracy. They will leave able to price print work with defensible numbers, plan capacity against real machine time, and cut waste and rework with evidence. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with print production and estimating practitioners working in live shops.

FAQs for the Print Estimating and Production Planning course

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Q1 What is the "Print Estimating and Production Planning" course about?

It is a five-day programme on pricing print work and planning its production. It covers print cost structure, paper and imposition calculation, machine hour rates and process estimating, production planning and scheduling, and performance measurement.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Print Estimating and Production Planning" course?

Participants price jobs with defensible numbers instead of approximate figures, plan capacity against real machine time rather than hope, and reduce waste and rework with measured causes. They also see margin leakage by comparing estimate with actual cost after completion.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Print Estimating and Production Planning" course?

You will gain print cost structure and estimating management, paper, sheet, and imposition calculation, process time and rate estimating, and production planning, scheduling, and performance management.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Print Estimating and Production Planning" course?

The course works with print cost elements covering substrate, ink, plates, labour, machine and overhead, fixed and variable cost analysis, machine hour rate calculation, overhead absorption and recovery methods, break-even analysis and margin setting, quotation structures and terms, standard sheet sizes, weights and calliper, paper requirement calculation by format and quantity, imposition schemes and press sheet utilisation, cutting, folding and binding allowance calculation, waste and spoilage allowance by stage, substrate selection and cost comparison, make-ready, run and wash-up time estimation, speed and throughput data by machine type, setup and changeover reduction, prepress and platemaking time, finishing operations covering cutting, folding, stitching and binding, outsourcing versus in-house cost comparison, job costing against estimate, job sequencing and priority rules, capacity planning by machine and shift, finite scheduling and bottleneck management, setup optimisation and job grouping, paper and consumable availability planning, digital workflow and production management systems, waste measurement and reduction programmes, quality control and rework prevention, and KPIs covering estimate accuracy, waste rate, makeready time and on-time delivery.

Q5 How is the "Print Estimating and Production Planning" course applied in real-world practice?

Teams apply it when quoting a multi-colour brochure with complex finishing, calculating paper requirement for an imposition scheme, setting the schedule after a rush job arrives, reviewing waste against the allowance on a job ticket, comparing estimate with actual cost after completion, and presenting delivery and waste performance at a production review.