

Financial Essentials for Nonprofit Managers

Course Description

Managers of nonprofit organizations (NPOs) generally are not skilled in financial matters. Or, managers are often preoccupied with its welfare objectives and fund raising and ignore the operations efficiency and operating cost controls. A series of appropriate questions that nonprofit financial managers must address in connection with an organization's financial condition and activity include: 1. Do we have a profit or a loss? 2. Do we have sufficient reserves? 3. Are we liquid? 4. Do we have strong internal controls? 5. Are we operating efficiently? 6. Are we meeting our budget? 7. Are our programs valid? 8. Are we competing successfully? 9. Is our prioritizing of programs and activities reasonable? The course is an attempt to help answer these questions.

Completion Deadline & Exam: This course, including the examination, must be completed within one year of the date of purchase. In addition, unless otherwise indicated, no correct or incorrect feedback for any exam question will be provided.

Course Level: Overview. This program is appropriate for professionals at all organizational levels.

CPE Credits: 12 (CPA)

Field of Study: Finance

Prerequisite: Basic Accounting

Advanced Preparation: None

Course Learning Objectives

Chapter 1: What Every Nonprofit Manager Should Know About Accounting and Finance

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize financing options available to nonprofit organizations.
2. Identify different cost types and classification for the nonprofit organization.
3. Recognize costs that are relevant to nonprofit decision making.

Chapter 2: Accounting Basics for Nonprofits

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize the use of accrual vs. cash basis accounting.
2. Identify the processes of budget recording and accountability.
3. Recognize GASB rules for nonprofit financial statements.
4. Identify examples of accounting by specific nonprofit organizations.

Chapter 3: Cost-Volume-Revenue Analysis: Are We Breaking Even?

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Identify the concepts answered by Cost-Volume-Revenue (CVR) analysis.
2. Differentiate among the methods to analyze financial statements.
3. Recognize components of the break even analysis.

Chapter 4: Financial Analysis and Metrics: Avoiding Bankruptcy

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize different examples of trend analysis.
2. Identify objectives in analyzing the statement of activities and different performance measures.

Chapter 5: Forecasting: Revenues, Costs, and Cash Flows

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Identify different examples of qualitative and quantitative forecasting methodology.

Chapter 6: The Budgeting Process: Device for Planning and Control

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Identify between the various types of budgets.
2. Recognize characteristics of different budgets and how to measure their effectiveness.

Chapter 7: Zero-Base Budgeting and Program Budgeting

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize the elements and characteristics of Zero Base Budgeting (ZBB).
2. Identify the characteristics and the time considerations of program budgeting process.

Chapter 8: Cost Behavior, Cost Control, and Flexible Budgeting

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Identify how cost behavior and variance analysis can assist with the budgeting process.
2. Calculate different costs and variances for the budgeting process.

Chapter 9: Enhancing Managerial and Department Performance

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize use of mission centers and service centers for nonprofit organizations.
2. Identify the role of the contribution approach to cost allocation for measuring performance of responsibility centers.
3. Recognize how cost allocations can affect performance metrics for managerial control

Chapter 10: Obtaining Funds: Short-Term and Long-Term Financing

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Calculate costs associated with different sources financing.
2. Estimate future NPO budgets based on past donations.
3. Differentiate between fixed, variable and semi-variable costs.
4. Calculate the cost of long-term debt financing.

Chapter 11: Managing Working Capital and Investing Surplus Funds

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Identify examples of the various cash models available.
2. Recognize costs that impact working capital.
3. Differentiate between investment objectives.
4. Identify different financial instruments available for investing surplus funds

Chapter 12: Cost Management and Pricing Decisions

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize the purpose for allocating service center costs to mission centers.
2. Differentiate among cost allocation techniques using the direct method, step-down (two-stage) method, and reciprocal method.
3. Identify the benefits of activity-based costing (ABC) and some factors that can be used in ABC.

Chapter 13: Analysis for Short-Term and Capital Expenditure Decisions and Financial Modeling

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

1. Recognize components of the make or buy decision.
2. Compute the present values and pay-back periods in a make or buy decision.
3. Identify different types of investment instruments and financial models.