

CRITICAL TRAINING SOLUTIONS, L.L.C.



Finance and Accounting for the Rest of Us

Making the books balance without investing in financial analysis will result in the prettiest set of books in bankruptcy court. Balancing is not the goal; it is preparing the firm foundation on which we build our financial analysis and reporting system. Management needs to know why the numbers are there. Management needs to know where the numbers point to problems and opportunities. Management cannot function without standing on solid financial ground. This course is designed to strengthen that foundation and allow management to make decisions with confidence in their numbers.

Learning Objectives

- Spot warning signs in the financial statements
- Identify opportunities hidden within the balance sheet
- Use variance analysis as a call to action
- Cut costs without cutting service
- Prepare for and handle financial surprises
- Identify trends within the financial statements, and make them work for you

Agenda

1. Closing the Books is only the beginning.
2. Develop a mindset for treasure hunting in financial reporting.
3. Learn the 4 types of budget variances.
4. Identify which variances are actionable, and which are to be monitored.
5. Learn the 8 Objectives of Financial Reporting.
6. Use Financial Ratios to determine your company's fiscal fitness.
7. Understand your role in financial management.
8. Know when to expand the analysis, and when to leave it alone.
9. Learn the 6 cognitive skills of critical thinking and apply them to financial analysis.
10. Communicate with management beyond the numbers.
11. Use trend analysis to prepare for opportunities as well as threats.
12. Follow your analytical input as it rolls up into consolidations.
13. Prepare financial positions that are accurate, defensible and convincing.