COURSE SYLLABUS

Congressional Budget Process Course

Understand the congressional budget process, including budget resolutions, authorizations, appropriations, and reconciliation.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/congressional-budget-process



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Course Outline

Module 1: Overview of the Budget Process

- Understand the separation of powers and the constitutional foundation of budget authority
- Review the evolution of the federal budget and financial management structure
- Explore the purposes of the federal budget and how Congress fits into the overall process
- Analyze the size, composition, and trends in federal receipts and expenditures

Module 2: Basic Budget Concepts

- Examine how Congress provides authority to spend and types of budgetary authority
- Differentiate between budget authority, obligations, and outlays
- Explore mandatory vs. discretionary spending and the concept of budget baselines
- Understand the federal debt limit and its impact on fiscal policy

Module 3: The Congressional Budget Process

- Understand the composition, leadership, and legislative process in Congress
- Explore the roles of authorization and appropriation committees and subcommittees
- Learn about budget resolutions, authorization acts, and appropriation acts
- Examine the types of appropriations and the use of continuing resolutions

Module 4: Reconciliation and Budget Enforcement

- Understand the reconciliation process and its legislative function
- Explore the Byrd Rule and its role in preventing extraneous provisions
- Learn about sequestration and its use in deficit reduction enforcement
- Analyze how omnibus reconciliation bills are considered and enacted

Module 5: Principal Organizations Providing Support to Congress

- Identify the functions of the Congressional Budget Office and Government Accountability Office
- Understand the role of the Congressional Research Service and Inspectors General
- Learn about the Government Publishing Office and the Congressional Record

Module 6: Course Summary

- Recap the legislative framework and evolution of the budget process
- Summarize the roles of Congress in shaping and enacting the federal budget
- Highlight major laws, processes, and enforcement mechanisms governing budget legislation