

Cost Principles for Grants Course

Master Subpart E cost rules, allowability, allocability, reasonableness, and practice decisions with real-world scenarios. Perfect for professionals who manage, oversee, or support federal assistance programs.

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: <https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/cost-principles-for-grants>



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Course Outline

Module 1: Allowability, Allocability, and Reasonableness

- Apply the core tests for compliant costs under Subpart E.
- Differentiate direct vs. indirect costs and consistency rules.
- Document cost decisions and justifications.

Module 2: Selected Items of Cost

- Apply 2 CFR 200 Subpart E to evaluate selected items of cost and determine whether costs are allowable, unallowable, or conditionally allowable.
- Analyze higher-risk cost categories, including travel, equipment, entertainment, meals, and training, using federal cost principles and sound compliance judgment.
- Identify the documentation, approvals, and internal controls needed to support selected cost decisions and maintain audit-ready records.
- Recommend corrective actions and stronger compliance practices when costs are improperly charged or insufficiently supported.

Module 3: Indirect (F&A) Costs and Rate Considerations

- Understand indirect cost proposals, rates, and de minimis options.
- Coordinate with cognizant agencies and apply caps/limitations.
- Tie rate decisions to budgeting and monitoring.
- Learn and implement decision tree tool for cost assessment (reasonableness → documentation → allowability → allocability)

Module 4: Documentation, Internal Controls, and Testing

- Establish documentation standards that satisfy auditors.
- Test internal controls for cost compliance and accuracy.
- Prepare for desk reviews and Single Audit testing.

Module 5: Practical Scenarios and Case Exercises

- Analyze sample transactions for compliance with Subpart E.
- Resolve common edge cases and conflicting guidance.
- Draft corrective actions for improper cost findings.

- Complete four case studies:
 - Unauthorized Equipment Purchase
 - Excessive Travel Expenses
 - Inaccurate Time Charges
 - Subrecipient Unsupported Costs