Introduction

This financial accounting and reporting course will help you understand the importance of financial reporting in business. It will also consider how the Annual Report provides an opportunity for management to account for its actions to stakeholders.

The financial accounting and reporting course will explore the frameworks imposed by accounting and financial reporting standards, corporate legislation, and stock market requirements worldwide. Internal reporting contributions to cost control, problem identification and correction, and profitable decision implementation will also be a focus area.

This financial accounting and reporting training course aims to give participants a robust understanding of the core principles and practices involved in financial accounting and reporting. It will delve into the intricacies of financial accounting and explore the various aspects of financial reporting essential for maintaining financial accountability within an organization.

What is Financial Accounting and Reporting?

Financial accounting and reporting encompass the processes of recording, summarizing, and communicating a business’s financial transactions, resulting in preparing financial statements that accurately reflect the company’s financial position.

This financial accounting and reporting course will guide participants through the frameworks and standards governing financial accounting and reporting and illuminate their significance in the global business landscape.

Financial Accounting vs. Financial Reporting

The distinction between financial accounting and financial reporting will be highlighted, illustrating their interrelationships and specific roles in shaping business strategy and operations.

Financial Reporting and Accounting – Integration in Business

Participants in the financial accounting and reporting course will learn how accounting and financial reporting are integrated within business operations, influencing decision-making processes and supporting strategic financial planning.

Participants in this financial accounting, reporting, and analysis course will learn valuable financial accounting reporting analysis and decision-making techniques, understand how to dissect financial statements to evaluate business performance, make informed decisions, and drive corporate success.

Targeted Groups

- Financial accounting team members.
- Financial planning and budgeting professionals.
- Strategic planning and head office team members.
- Corporate communication and investor relations professionals.
- Investment analysts and advisers.
- Auditors and tax managers.

Course Objectives

At the end of this financial accounting and reporting course, the participants will be able to:

- Evaluate new investment proposals and determine their value to the organization.
- Understand and use analytical tools and techniques.
- Appreciate the importance of investments in maintaining growth and competitiveness.
- Identify the role of accounting standards in financial communication.
- Apply essential accounting standards in their enterprises.
- Understand auditing roles.
- Increase awareness of financial analysis and capital appraisal techniques.
- Understand business risk concerns.
- Increase the ability to identify problem areas.
- Gain confidence in tackling new challenges.

Targeted Competencies

By the end of this financial accounting and reporting training, the participant’s competencies will include:

- Mapping trial balance accounts to financial statement accounts.
- Practicing financial statement note preparation.
- Adhering to minimum disclosure requirements.
- Applying international financial reporting standards (IFRS).
- Using Excel and pivot tables for reporting.

Course Content

Unit 1: Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance

- Exploring business objectives and shareholder wealth.
- Discussing the users of financial information.

- The role of accounting in financial reporting.
- Examining critical financial statements and their purposes.
- Delving into the conceptual framework of accounting and financial reporting.
- Introduction to accounting standards.
- The development of accounting standards.
- Analyzing international financial scandals.
- The agency problem.
- The role of audit in financial accountability.
- Understanding the need for corporate governance, including comparisons across regions.
- Corporate governance in the UK, US, and GCC countries.
- Detailed analysis of the Balance Sheet components and their limitations.
- Shareholders equity.
- Current and noncurrent assets.
- Current and noncurrent liabilities.
- Working capital.
- Preparing the balance sheet.
- What does the balance sheet tell us?
- What are its limitations?
- Learning accounting terminology.

Unit 2: Accounting Systems, Reporting, and Decisions

- Preparation of the Income Statement.
- Calculation of profit.
- Categories of income and expenditure.
- Valuation of current and noncurrent assets.
- The format of the Income Statement and Balance Sheet.
- The link between cash and profit.
- The link between asset valuation and profit.
- Inventory, receivables, payables, and money.
- The application of judgment.
- The nature and purpose of working capital.
- Management accounting and cost-volume-profit (CVP) analysis.
- Break-even analysis.
- The impact of volume and sales changes on cost structures.
- The limitations of break-even analysis.

Unit 3: Cash Flow and Investment Appraisal

- The purpose of the cash flow statement and its contents.
- Preparing and presenting the cash flow statement.
- Sources and uses of cash.
- The link between the cash flow statement, the balance sheet, and the income statement.
- The Cash Flow Statement as a predictor of future performance.
- Interest rates and the time value of money.
- Discounting and compounding – present values and future values.
- Annuities and perpetuities.
- Investment appraisal: what is an investment?
- Appraisal techniques NPV and IRR.

- Relevant cash flows and free cash flows.
- The effect of inflation.
- Dealing with risk and uncertainty.
- Asset replacement and annual equivalent value.
- Capital rationing.
- Managing the investment project.

Unit 4: Financing and Cost of Capital

- Financing the business.
- Financing principles.
- Sources and types of finance and the effect of gearing.
- Defensive, neutral, aggressive financing policies.
- Stock market listing.
- The cost of capital.
- Cost of equity (Ke).
- Cost of debt (Kd).
- Weighted average cost of capital (WACC).
- Capital asset pricing model (CAPM).
- The need for company valuations.
- Valuation methods: Net assets; PE Ratio; dividend growth model; present value of future free cash flows; capitalized earnings.
- Shareholder value-added.
- Financial growth modeling: analysis of growth patterns.
- Use of Excel for growth forecasting.
- DCF valuation.

Unit 5: Analysis and Interpretation of Financial Reports

- The contents of the published annual report.
- Recent developments in financial reporting.
- Interpretation of financial statements.
- Common size analysis.
- Ratio analysis, including the Dupont system.
- Profitability ratios.
- Liquidity ratios.
- Efficiency ratios.
- Capital structure ratios.
- Investment performance ratios.
- Measuring performance – cash ratios or profit ratios?
- Value-added analysis.
- Segmental analysis.
- The shortcomings of financial statements, for interpretation purposes.
- Predicting corporate failure.
- Non-financial factors.
- General financial management issues.
- The effect of poor liquidity.
- Post balance sheet events and contingencies.
- The auditors report.
- Failure-predicting ratios.
- Multivariate failure predicting models – Altman Z score.

Senior Accountant Financial Reporting

Participants interested in advancing their career to a senior accountant role in financial reporting will engage in analyzing corporate financial accounting and reporting. This Financial accounting and reporting training certification course will discuss options for those looking to specialize, providing a pathway to becoming a proficient financial reporting accountant.