MERCURY

Financial Analysis, Planning & Control

23 August – 3 September 2027
Cape Town (South Africa)



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Ref: 2007_1050306 **Date:** 23 August – 3 September 2027 **Location:** Cape Town (South Africa) **Fees:** 9500 Euro

Financial Analysis, Planning & Control is a 2-week intermediate-to-advanced course on corporate financial statement evaluation, economic value added modeling, and discounted cash flow valuation. It is designed for treasury leaders, financial controllers, corporate analysts, and investment appraisal specialists evaluating corporate capitalization and capital project allocations. You will complete and take back the Corporate Financial Analysis and Valuation Dossier. The course is delivered by Mercury Training Center.

About This Course

Corporate resource allocators face significant risk when assessing capital expenditure proposals, debt capacity, and operating margins without rigorous quantitative models. To follow this course, you should already prepare financial statements and interpret core ratio diagnostics. You practice by stress-testing cash flow projections, modeling DuPont returns, estimating cost of capital, and conducting sensitivity simulations on corporate acquisitions.

Who It Is For

- Corporate accounting personnel responsible for preparing financial statements, tracking balance sheet solvency, and managing working capital cycles
- Treasury officers responsible for assessing capital structure options, debt covenant compliance, and cash requirements
- Financial controllers responsible for overseeing capital allocation decisions, standard cost variances, and divisional accountability
- Mergers and acquisitions analysts responsible for constructing valuation models, evaluating enterprise buyout targets, and conducting post-merger assessments
- Corporate development specialists responsible for assessing long-term strategic investments, capacity expansions, and divestitures

This course is not for entry-level bookkeepers seeking basic double-entry bookkeeping instruction, who are better served by a foundational accounting course, nor for executive directors requiring high-level board governance overviews without quantitative modeling, who are better served by a corporate governance seminar.

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Competencies You Will Build

- DuPont Ratio Decomposition: you diagnose return on equity drivers by breaking down profitability margins, asset turnover efficiency, and leverage multipliers
- Economic Value Added Modeling: you measure corporate wealth generation by calculating net operating profit after tax against weighted average cost of capital
- Investment Appraisal: you evaluate investment viability using net present value, internal rate of return, and equivalent annual cost frameworks
- Cash Flow Forecasting: you construct integrated balance sheet and cash flow projections to stress-test debt service capabilities and liquidity reserves
- Corporate Valuation Synthesis: you determine enterprise and equity market values using discounted cash flows, earnings multiples, and transaction comparables
- Variance Diagnostics: you trace operating income deviations to standard cost fluctuations, pricing differentials, and sales volume shifts

What You Will Be Able to Do

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- From corporate balance sheets and income statements, calculate a multi-tier DuPont diagnostic to isolate liquidity, efficiency, and solvency exposures
- Given multi-year income and capital expenditure schedules, compute economic value added and market value added to determine shareholder wealth creation
- Using prospective investment cash flows, build discount models that evaluate net present value, modified internal rate of return, and capital payback periods
- From operational sales targets and cost ledgers, generate rolling cash forecasts that evaluate operational leverage and sensitivity boundaries
- Using audited annual reports of acquisition targets, determine enterprise valuation ranges through discounted cash flow analysis and comparable multiples
- From departmental spending ledgers, compute flexible-budget variances to distinguish volume variances from standard cost pricing variations

Course Content

Day 1: Corporate Governance and Financial Statement Architecture

- Financial Economic Decision Frameworks for Maximizing Corporate Wealth
- Corporate Governance Mechanisms and Mitigating Principal-Agent Agency Friction
- Balance Sheet and Income Statement Interrelationships in Financial Reporting
- Competitor Benchmarking Methods for Evaluating Strategic Industry Positioning
- Data Integrity Protocols for Corporate Financial Statement Screening

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Day 2: Advanced Ratio Decomposition and Solvency Assessment

- Three-Stage and Five-Stage DuPont Models for Return on Equity Disaggregation
- Lender Versus Shareholder Ratio Perspectives in Liquidity and Leverage Evaluation
- Operating Asset Efficiency Metrics and Working Capital Cycle Quantification
- Altman Z-Score Formulations for Predicting Corporate Financial Distress
- Pyramids of Ratios for Tracing Divisional Operating Margins

Day 3: Economic Value Added and Shareholder Wealth Creation

- Economic Value Added Principles and Net Operating Profit After Tax Adjustments
- Invested Capital Adjustments and Weighted Average Cost of Capital Integration
- Market Value Added Derivation for Long-Term Corporate Performance Monitoring
- Value-Based Management Frameworks Across Corporate Operating Units
- Executive Incentive Alignment Using Residual Income Benchmarks

Day 4: Cash Flow Projections and Financial Modeling

- Pro-Forma Income Statement and Balance Sheet Integration Mechanics
- Operating Leverage Multipliers and Fixed-to-Variable Cost Risk Profiling
- Direct and Indirect Cash Flow Forecasting for Liquidity Management
- Dynamic Business Growth Modeling and Sustainable Growth Rate Equations
- Scenario Sensitivity Analysis for Stress-Testing Revenue Trajectories

Day 5: Capital Investment Appraisal and Discounted Cash Flows

- Time-Adjusted Discounting Principles and Net Present Value Decision Rules
- Internal Rate of Return Limitations and Modified Internal Rate of Return Solutions
- Equivalent Annual Cost Methodologies for Unequal Equipment Life Comparisons
- Capital Rationing Constraints and Profitability Index Prioritization
- Net Present Value Breakeven and Capital Expenditure Payback Thresholds

Day 6: Investment Risk, Simulation, and Strategic Valuation

- Monte Carlo Simulation Approaches for Capital Project Uncertainty
- Scenario Analysis Frameworks for Evaluating Downside Investment Exposure
- Comparative Valuation Aligning Economic Value Added and Net Present Value
- Real Options Valuation in Phased Corporate Expansion Decisions
- Capital Replacement Policies and Asset Disposal Timing Analysis

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Day 7: Corporate Valuation, Mergers, and Restructuring

- Discounted Free Cash Flow to Firm and Free Cash Flow to Equity Models
- Market Multiple Approaches Using Enterprise Value to EBITDA and Price to Earnings
- Financial Strategic Rationale in Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions
- Structuring Management Buyouts and Leveraged Transaction Financing
- Divestiture and Corporate Restructuring Valuation Methodologies

Day 8: Strategic Financial Planning and Cost Dynamics

- Integration of Strategic Milestones with Multi-Year Financial Forecasts
- SWOT and PESTEL Environmental Mapping Linked to Capital Expenditure Plans
- Fixed Versus Variable Cost Behavior and Contribution Margin Mechanics
- Cost-Volume-Profit Breakeven Modeling for Multi-Product Lines
- Activity-Based Costing Principles Versus Traditional Absorption Cost Systems

Day 9: Operational Control, Flexible Budgets, and Variance Analysis

- Budgetary Frameworks Comparing Incremental and Zero-Based Allocation Methods
- Static Versus Flexible Budget Formulation Across Activity Levels
- Direct Material and Labor Standard Cost Variance Decomposition
- Sales Price and Sales Volume Variance Analysis on Operating Income
- Continuous Improvement Frameworks Embedded in Departmental Variance Control

Day 10: Performance Measurement and Dossier Finalization

- Exercise Evaluating Corporate Solvency Using DuPont Decomposition and Distress Scoring
- Exercise Valuing an Acquisition Target via Discounted Cash Flows and Comparable Multiples
- Exercise Reconciling Operating Profit Variances Across Flexible Production Schedules
- Balanced Scorecard Architecture Linking Financial Perspective to Internal Processes
- Completing and Presenting the Corporate Financial Analysis and Valuation Dossier

Case Studies and Exercises

The following are suggested activities used during the course.

- Case study: an industrial manufacturing enterprise evaluating a capital plant modernization; you compute net present value, internal rate of return, and equivalent annual cost to determine asset replacement schedules.
- Case study: a commercial logistics company seeking an acquisition target; you perform a discounted free cash flow valuation, calculate EBITDA transaction multiples, and assess post-deal debt capacity.
- Exercise: a telecommunications provider reviewing quarterly earnings variance; you calculate flexible-budget deviations, standard cost discrepancies, and sales volume effects to isolate departmental cost overruns.
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Exercise: a retail conglomerate facing declining margins; you conduct a five-stage DuPont ratio decomposition, evaluate economic value added, and apply distress prediction models to propose restructuring remedies.

What You Take Back

You return with the Corporate Financial Analysis and Valuation Dossier to guide capital allocation and performance appraisals across your organization. In your first month back, you use it to evaluate major capital proposals, benchmark corporate financial health, review acquisition models, and structure divisional variance reviews with executive peers.

- DuPont decomposition and solvency distress diagnostic workbook
- Discounted cash flow and enterprise valuation spreadsheet model
- Capital investment appraisal template with sensitivity and scenario testing engines
- Flexible-budget variance reconciliation and standard costing scorecard

Quick Answers FAQ

What should I know before attending Financial Analysis, Planning & Control?

You should have a functional command of corporate financial accounting, including reading balance sheets, income statements, and basic cash flow statements. Experience with spreadsheet modeling and calculating standard financial ratios will help you engage with the advanced analytical models.

How does Financial Analysis, Planning & Control differ from operational budgeting training?

Operational budgeting training concentrates on departmental line-item assembly and annual cost targets. This course concentrates on corporate valuation, economic value added, strategic capital expenditure appraisal, and advanced financial statement diagnostics designed for corporate finance specialists.

Why is economic value added essential for corporate financial analysis and planning?

Economic value added measures genuine economic profit after deducting the total cost of capital invested. Unlike conventional accounting profit, it ensures that capital allocation choices generate returns exceeding the hurdle rate required by lenders and equity investors.

What work product do you take back from Financial Analysis, Planning & Control?

You take back the completed Corporate Financial Analysis and Valuation Dossier, containing automated DuPont diagnostic tools, discounted cash flow valuation models, capital appraisal templates, and variance tracking scorecards for immediate organizational deployment.

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For Your Manager

Enrolling your team member in this course equips them to evaluate capital expenditure proposals, construct robust corporate valuation models, and identify profitability drivers with quantitative precision. They will return with the Corporate Financial Analysis and Valuation Dossier, which they will immediately apply to benchmark corporate solvency, appraise upcoming strategic investments, and identify root causes of operating variances across your business units.