

Top 18 Lessons We Learn – Playing Detective with Financial Statements

Course Duration: 8 hours

Course Overview & Objectives

This truly unique program is specially conceptualised and designed to provide you the top 18 lessons we learn from the financial scandals that have rocked the world and the relevance of ethics, personal and professional skills that are expected in preparing financial statements.

This course offers you the tools and techniques that you can apply in performing financial analysis. A first of its kind, this course will point out some of the things that accountants and auditors missed along the way, which were eventually brought to light in the financial scandals since the 1990s.

In addition, the course will also provide an opportunity to participants to develop an independent mindset to compare and question different ethical perspectives.

Participants will take away with them a number of lessons regarding the professional conduct and ethics in preparing financial statements, as well as the evaluation of the financial reporting quality of companies.

This is a highly interactive course which will include plenty of short case examples, fun facts, ethical dilemmas faced by accountants and real life illustrations using several renowned and reputable public listed companies to help reinforce the learning concepts and outcomes.

Who Should Attend

- Institutional Investors
- Bankers
- Fund Managers
- Research Analysts
- Traders
- Investment Advisers
- Dealers and Industry Related Professionals

Learning Outcomes

- Distinguish between different definitions of earnings (eg. EBIT, EBITDA, operating income, income from continuing operations, net income, etc.);
- Explain how trends in cash flow from operations can be more reliable than trends in earnings);
- Contrast cash-basis and accrual-basis accounting and explain why accounting discretion exists in an accrual accounting system;



Top 18 Lessons We Learn – Playing Detective with Financial Statements

Learning Outcome cont.

- Explain opportunities and motivations for management to intervene in the external financial reporting process and the mechanisms that discipline such intervention;
- Explain potential problems that affect the quality of financial reporting, including revenue recognition, expense recognition, balance sheet issues, and cash flow statement issues, and interpret warning signs of these potential problems.

Course Outline

Module 1: Rogue Company Profiling

- Let's Begin with Some Insights to the Magic of David Copperfield
- Hard Truths – Sharing the US and Asia Experience
- Where are the Hot Spots in Financial Statements?
- Movie Time – The Last Days of Lehman
- Quiz Time – “Spotting a Fraudster”

Module 2: The Top 5 Lessons We Learn

- Lesson #1 – Understand What You Are Looking At
- Lesson #2 – Read the Fine Print
- Lesson #3 – If It's Too Good to Be True, It May Be
- Lesson #4 – Follow the Money
- Lesson #5 – Understand the Risks
- The Future of Financial Analysis in the Post-Crisis Era

Module 3: Financial Reporting Quality: Top 13 Accounting Warning Signs

- Accrual versus Cash Accounting
- Manipulation Incentives
- Disciplining Mechanisms
- Revenue Recognition Issues - Accelerating Revenue
- Ratio Detection
- Classification of Nonrecurring or Nonoperating Revenue as Operating
- Expense Recognition – Understating Expenses
- Expense Recognition – Deferring Expenses
- Classification of Operating Expenses as Nonrecurring or Non Operating
- Big Bath Provisions
- Off-Balance-Sheet Liabilities
- Balance Sheet Goodwill
- Cash Flow Statement Issues



Top 18 Lessons We Learn – Playing Detective with Financial Statements

Course Outline cont.

Module 4: Audit & Regulatory Responses

- Recap of key concepts and integration with case study.
 - Review of the financial statement of a listed company and the critical lessons we can learn

A Fun Quiz Game Show:

- “Who Wants To Be A Finance Genius?”

Top 18 Lessons We Learn – Playing Detective with Financial Statements

Training Methodology

- Lecture style, with Exercises/Case Studies
- Quiz format presentation to reinforce knowledge

Training Requirements

- Participants are not required to have basic understanding of corporate finance and financial statement analysis. More experienced individuals will be able to build on their knowledge through practical, current case studies.

Speaker's Profile



Mr. S.S. Sandhu FCA, CPA has extensive experience working within the financial markets sector in Asia. He has deep technical knowledge covering listed companies, multinationals, initial public offerings and mergers and acquisitions due diligence gained over 18 years at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He was also the CFO of one of the largest financial institutions in Singapore.

Mr Sandhu is a highly sought after speaker at financial seminars and courses around the world and has authored and contributed many publications on corporate governance, risk management and international accounting standards. He is highly rated by participants who have attended his programs. He is particularly well-known for his ability to translate complex and difficult financial concepts into plain language, and the use of real life experiences, easy to understand illustrations and case studies to help the candidate's ability to understand finance and accounting. He adopts a highly interactive approach in his workshops which makes learning both fun and memorable.

Register your interest today!

For in-house training request, please contact Alson at alson@abmaximus.com.
Competitive corporate discounts available for bulk registration.

Visit <https://www.abmaximus.com/in-house-courses> to find out more about the other courses available.

A.B. Maximus & Co. Pte Ltd 160 Robinson Road, #27-06 SBF Centre, Singapore 068914
T: 6327 5436 F: 6214 3596 | E: Trainingadmin@abmaximus.com

