



51A Middle Street Newburyport MA 01950  
Phone: 800-588-7039 Fax: 877-902-4284  
[contact@bhfe.com](mailto:contact@bhfe.com) [www.bhfe.com](http://www.bhfe.com)

## Course Information

---

**Course Title:** Project Accounting #363220

**Number of continuing education credit hours recommended for this course:**

**CPA:** 3 (All states)

In accordance with the standards of the National Registry of CPE Sponsors CPE credits have been granted based on a 50-minute hour.

National Registry of CPE Sponsors ID Number: 107615.

Sponsor numbers for states requiring sponsor registration

Florida Division of Certified Public Accountancy: 4761 (Ethics #11467)

Hawaii Board of Accountancy: 14003

New York State Board of Accountancy: 002146

Ohio State Board of Accountancy: M0021

Pennsylvania Board of Accountancy: PX178025

Texas State Board of Accountancy: 009349

### Course Description

Accounting for a major project presents the accountant with a multitude of difficult accounting issues. The *Project Accounting* course shows how to deal with these concerns by describing the ideal cost collection system and how to record expenses and revenues within it. The course also addresses the management of change orders, allowances, and contingencies, while noting the impact of GAAP requirements on specific project issues, including interest capitalization and the treatment of research and development costs. The controls and measurements used for projects are also discussed. The broad range of topics covered make this course an essential tool for the project accountant.

**Program Delivery Method:** NASBA QAS Self-Study (interactive)

**Subject Codes/Field of Study:** Accounting

Level: Overview

Prerequisites: Basic familiarity with accounting practices.

Advance Preparation: None

**Course Content**

Publication/Revision date: 10/26/2020.

Author: Steven M. Bragg, CPA.

Final exam: Fifteen questions (multiple-choice).

**Instructions for taking this course**

**Note:** Downloading the PDF of this course will enable Bookmarks for easier navigation (on the left side of the document window, open the bookmarks pane).

You must complete this course within one year of the date of purchase (if you do not complete the course within one year, contact us to determine whether an updated edition of the course is available, in which case we will provide you with a PDF of the updated course and the online exam at no charge).

A passing grade of at least 70% is required on the final exam for this course. You may retake the exam if you do not pass it on the first attempt (no charge).

Complete the course by following the learning objectives listed below, studying the text, and studying the review questions at the end of each major section (or at the end of the course). Once you have completed studying the course and you are confident that the learning objectives have been met, answer the final exam questions (online).

**Instructions for Taking the Final Exam Online**

- Login to your account online at [www.bhfe.com](http://www.bhfe.com).
- Go to "My Account" and view your course.
- Select "Take Exam" for this course and follow instructions.

**Additional Information**

- The exam may be started, stopped, then resumed at a later date.
- The exam is "open book," it is not timed, and it may be retaken if not passed on the first attempt (no charge).
- Results (correct, incorrect answers) and certificate appear immediately upon passing the exam.

**Have a question?** Call us at 800-588-7039 or email us at [contact@bhfe.com](mailto:contact@bhfe.com).

## Learning Objectives:

---

- Identify the key characteristics of a project.
- Specify the pricing calculation methods for project contracts, as well as the issues associated with the different profit recognition methods.
- Recognize the different types of direct costs associated with a project, as well as the costs incurred to obtain a contract.
- Specify the circumstances under which allowances are included in a project budget.
- Recognize the circumstances under which interest is capitalized.
- Identify the circumstances under which the costs associated with internal-use software development and website development should be capitalized or charged to expense.
- Specify the controls related to the assignment of costs and the calculation of the percentage of completion.
- Identify the contents of the formulas associated with the analysis of projects.

## About the Author

---

**Steven Bragg, CPA**, has been the chief financial officer or controller of four companies, as well as a consulting manager at Ernst & Young. He received a master's degree in finance from Bentley College, an MBA from Babson College, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Maine. He has been the two-time President of the Colorado Mountain Club, and is an avid alpine skier, mountain biker, and certified master diver. Mr. Bragg resides in Centennial, Colorado. He has written the following books:

Copyright © 2020 by AccountingTools, Inc. All rights reserved.

Published by AccountingTools, Inc., Centennial, Colorado.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to Steven M. Bragg, 6727 E. Fremont Place, Centennial, CO 80112.

**Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty:** While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Chapter 1 - Overview of Project Accounting .....</b>	<b>1</b>
The Project .....	1
The Project Accountant .....	2
<b>Chapter 2 - Project Pricing, Billing and Revenue.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Project Pricing Methodologies .....	6
Cost Plus Pricing.....	6
Fixed Fee Pricing.....	7
Contractual Modifiers .....	8
Progress Billings .....	8
Project Revenue Recognition .....	9
Output Methods .....	9
Input Methods .....	10
Change in Estimate .....	11
Progress Measurement.....	11
Percentage of Completion Method.....	11
Completed Contract Method .....	13
Contract Modifications.....	13
Treatment as Separate Contract .....	13
Treatment as Continuing Contract.....	14
Entitlement to Payment .....	16
Measurement of Progress Completion .....	16
<b>Chapter 3 - Project Costs.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Project Costs.....	19
Direct Costs.....	19
Overhead Costs .....	20
Capitalized Interest .....	20
Costs to Obtain a Contract.....	20
Information Organization and Presentation.....	21
Information Recordation .....	23
Separate Spreadsheet .....	23
Separate General Ledger / Subledger Accounts.....	23
Separate Accounting Module.....	24
Information Collection .....	24
<b>Chapter 4 - Project Cost Management .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Progress Monitoring.....	26
Cost Variance Reporting .....	27
Change Order Management.....	27
Allowance Management.....	28
Contingency Management.....	28
Budget Accuracy .....	28
The Sunk Cost Consideration.....	28
<b>Chapter 5 - Interest Capitalization .....</b>	<b>31</b>
Overview of Capitalized Interest.....	31
When to Capitalize Interest .....	32
The Interest Capitalization Period .....	32
The Capitalization Rate .....	33
Calculating Interest Capitalization .....	35
<b>Chapter 6 - Additional Project Accounting Topics.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Asset Impairment .....	38
Research and Development Costs .....	39
Internal-Use Software.....	40
Website Development Costs .....	42

<b>Chapter 7 - Project Controls .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Controls for Cost Plus Pricing Arrangements .....	44
Controls for Fixed Fee Pricing Arrangements.....	45
Controls for Internal Projects .....	46
<b>Chapter 8 - Project Measurements .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Cost Variance .....	49
Net Present Value.....	50
Breakeven Analysis.....	52
Return on Assets.....	53
Free Cash Flow.....	54
<b>Answers to Chapter Questions .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Glossary .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Index .....</b>	<b>62</b>

# Preface

---

## Preface

---

Many business activities are organized as projects, and yet there may be no accounting system designed for their unique characteristics. In *Project Accounting*, we explore the nature of a project, the role of the project accountant in marshalling information for it, and a broad range of accounting subjects that can be tailored to the needs of individual projects. Topics covered include progress billings, revenue recognition, cost variance reporting, change order management, research and development costs, and the controls and measurements that can be applied to a project.

You can find the answers to many questions about project accounting in the following chapters, including:

- What is the job description of a project accountant?
- How does fixed fee pricing impact the billing system?
- What type of account structure should be used for a project?
- How do I deal with project allowances and contingencies?
- When should I calculate capitalized interest for a project?
- What special accounting considerations apply to website development costs?
- Which controls should I install for an internal project?

This course is updated regularly to reflect changes in the accounting standards.

Centennial, Colorado  
October 2020