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Introduction to the Principles of Operations Management: A Guide for APICS instructors

January 24, 2011

Question and answer document

The questions contained in this document were submitted by attendees of the Introduction to the Principles of Operations Management: A Guide for APICS Instructors webinar, presented by David Ross. If you have additional questions or need more information about any of the following topics, please email pdadmin@apics.org, and your question will be routed to the appropriate person.

Q: What is the cost of this new program?

A: APICS is still determining the cost.

Q: Is 35 hours the recommended contact hours per class?

A: At a minimum, a session from the core should take between 3 to 4 hours to complete. So if, there are 9 sessions plus a mid-term and final, 36 is about right. This time can be significantly expanded with the use of the advanced materials (per the instructor's discretion).

Q: What breakdown of marking for grades is provided in the courseware?

A: There are no criteria for assessing grades provided. Principles should be treated like a text book with a test database. Instructor should determine what performance review will be necessary for the class.

Q: My question regarding marking for grades was regarding assigning marks to case studies, quizzes, and exams in order to get a pass/fail assessment for students. Is this in place?

A: There are no base criteria established in the courseware regarding pass/fail. That will be left entirely up to the instructor.

Q: Will the Fundamentals courseware still be available after Principles is issued?

A: No, we will retire the corresponding Fundamentals course when each new Principles course is released.

Q: The modularization implies that APICS Channel Partners will be able to order modularized participant workbooks; is this correct?

A: Yes, APICS will make protected pdfs available.

Q: The program went from four modules to five. Can you go over how they match up to the old? And which new module is "new."

A. Actually, there is no new module. The fifth module (Fundamentals of Materials Handling and Warehousing) was held by OMERIC until 2009, when it came under APICS control. The old and new line up as follows:



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- Fundamentals of Inventory Control becomes Principles of Inventory Management
- Fundamentals of Planning becomes Principles of Operations Planning
- Fundamentals of Manufacturing Control becomes Principles of Manufacturing Management
- Fundamentals of Operations Management becomes Principles of Managing Operations
- Fundamentals of Materials Handling and Warehousing becomes Principles of Distribution and Logistics

Q: Will this be available to chapters only, or will 3rd parties (consultants) be able to order?

A: We are not placing restrictions on whom may purchase the new Principle courses.

Q: How can I introduce this courseware to local community colleges?

A: Contact David Ross (dross@apics.org) to discuss.

Q: How does this course compare to operations management introduction courses at undergraduate colleges?

A: Each Principles course contains core and advanced materials. When both are considered, the Principles could very easily be used in an undergraduate-level program. (NOT graduate level.)

Q: Where are we on obtaining widely recognized academic credit for this course of instruction?

A: Academic credit is available for APICS certification exams, but not for APICS courseware. This is because APICS Corporate does not teach the courseware, APICS staff people and volunteers only create it. Accrediting institutions can offer academic credit for exams because passing the exam demonstrates a standard met; accrediting institutions need to look at the course provider when reviewing courseware.

Q: Will Principles of Inventory Management be released soon?

A: In the next three weeks.

Q: When will the other four modules be ready for release?

A: We'll be working on them over the next year and a half. We'll release each one as it is ready.

Q: Will course outlines be available sooner?

A: Yes, a detailed outline exists. Contact David Ross at dross@apics.org.

Q: Does the Distribution/Logistics module replace the current OMERIC Materials Handling/Warehouse Mgt Fundamentals?

A: Yes.

Q: Originally with Fundamentals, companies wanted letter grades issued. Can this new design still support this request? Is it up to the Instructor solely, or can APICS help here?

A: See previous comments on grading.

Q: The Phoenix Chapter offers spreadsheets to students already. Were these OpsMath spreadsheets evaluated as part of this change from Fundamentals to Principles?



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A: No, they were not used.

Q: Will there be annual updates similar to APICS CPIM?

A: Yes.

Q: What are we going to offer in total? Is this not to be offered until courseware is available?

A: You may offer each new course as it is released. Ultimately, there will be five courses.

Q: Can anyone, such as community college instructors, chapter instructors, and consultants, buy these courses and teach? A: Yes

Q: Can the individual module be purchased separately? What's the training length of each module?

A: Yes, each individual module (course) will be sold separately. The sessions within each course also can be purchased individually, or in a "mix-and-match" format.

Q: Will there be case studies in the new updates?

A: Yes.

Q: Are the spreadsheets going to be delivered to the participants, or will they be only for the instructor?

A: They will be delivered to the instructor only in the instructor kit. It is up to the instructor to share them if doing so fits the educational objectives of the class.

Q: What is the time per course?

A: See previous answer on the subject.

Q: Is the Arnold text referenced in the course materials? Is it required?

A: Yes. *Introduction to Materials Management* by Arnold, Chapman & Clive is the only required reading outside of the courseware..

Q: It appears this is going to be strongly lecture based. Is that correct?

A: No more so than the current Fundamentals courseware.

Q: If we're going to compete against junior colleges, undergraduate programs, etc., what do you see as making us unique from them?

A: The same things that make our partner's offerings unique in the marketplace today: more experienced instructors, a closer relationship with the APICS community, and professional networking with more experienced practitioners.