

IMA's ACE2018 Tracks and Topics

The following program tracks will form the structure for IMA's ACE2018. The goal for these tracks is to help attendees expand their knowledge and skills in one or more relevant management accounting area(s).

Academic speakers: Please be advised there will be a separate call-for-proposals request in the 2017 fall timeframe to submit Applied Research topics.

Governance, Risk Management, and Internal Controls

Suggested Topics:

- What's New in Risk Management and Internal Control
- Best Practice Tips in Risk Management and Internal Control
- COSO Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and Other Risk Management and Internal Control Frameworks, e.g., ISO
- Establishing Relevant Key Risk Indicators to Ensure Successful Risk Management
- Risk Management Scenario Planning
- Disaster Recovery Planning Techniques
- Establishing Effective Internal Control Policies and Procedures
- IT Security Controls
- Introducing Continuous Improvement in the Internal Controls and Fraud Prevention process
- Fraud Prevention Through Internal Control Policies
- Importance of Tone at the Top and Company Culture to Avoid Fraud
- Enabling Organization-wide Compliance
- The Role of the Management Accountant in Compliance
- Best Practices for Corporate Governance

Planning, Budgeting, and Forecasting

Suggested Topics:

- Balancing Resource Requirements Across the Organization – Setting and Communicating Priorities
- Best Practices in Competitive Analysis
- Building Effective Dashboards and KPIs
- Data Analytics
- Data Mining and Business Intelligence Tools
- Data Visualization
- Zero Based Budgeting Key Concepts
- Cost Optimization, Activity-Based Budgeting
- Corporate Performance Management (CPM) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
- Cutting the Cycle Time on Budgeting and Planning through Continuous Improvement
- Industry Trends and Economic Data Critical to Planning
- Internal vs External Reporting Needs
- Linking the Budget Process to the Strategic Plan
- Planning and Reporting Non-Financial Data – Sustainability, etc.
- Transforming the Planning Cycle Through Innovation and Technology

Financial Close and Reporting

Suggested Topics:

- Cost Allocation, Cost Variance, Activity Based Costing
- Application of New Pronouncements
- Dashboards
- FASB Accounting Changes on the Horizon
- Integrated Reporting
- Internal vs External Reporting Needs
- Preparing for the Audit
- Reducing the Close Cycle with Greater Accuracy Via Process Management Tools
- Reporting Non-Financial Data – Sustainability, etc.
- Consolidation Software
- Respecting Auditor Independence

Small Business, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Related Topics

Suggested Topics:

- Developing an Entrepreneurship Mindset
- Attracting Qualified Talent
- Succession Planning within a Privately-Owned Company
- Compliance Challenges in a Small Business
- Outsourcing Needs of Small Businesses
- Cash Management – Resources/Tips to Improve Cash Flow
- Disaster Recover Planning for Small Businesses
- Impact of Updated Accounting Standards (such as revenue recognition and lease standards)
- Family Business Considerations
- Best Practices in M&A Due Diligence: What to Expect, How to Conduct, and How to Use Critical Checklists
- Business Valuation – How to Value an Acquisition Target
- Establishing Goals and Parameters for Acquisitions
- Financial and Non-Financial Measures of Success
- Financing Growth & Accessing Capital Markets
- Post-Acquisition Cultural Integration
- Surviving M&A
- Taking a Private Company Public

Strategy and Competitive Analysis

Suggested Topics:

- The Role of the Management Accountant in the Strategic Planning Process
- The CFO as Strategic Business Partner
- Leading the Strategic Management Process
- Case Studies: Successful Strategies and Failures
- Best Practices in Implementing a Balanced Scorecard
- Beyond the Dashboard: Picking the Best KPIs to Measure and Optimize Performance
- Blue Ocean Thinking in your Organization
- Optimizing Profitability in the Age of Disruption
- Prolonging Competitive Advantage: How to Extend Competitive Advantage in a Rapidly Changing World
- What's new in Strategic Analysis: Models for Analyzing Companies and Industries
- Implementing a Competitive Intelligence Function in Your Organization
- Incorporating Elements of ERM into the Strategic Planning Process

- Managing the Innovation Process: How Successful Companies Manage the Flow of New Ideas, Research and Development
- Strategic Dependency Between Innovation and ERM
- Strategy Coordination: Linking Corporate Strategy to Functional Goals
- Incorporating Sustainability into your Organization's Strategic Planning

Technology

Suggested Topics:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Blockchain
- Excel for Management Accountants
- Technology Trends/Updates
- Cyber Security
- Technology Enablers for Managing Risk
- Alternatives to Excel for Planning and Forecasting
- Advanced Excel for Planning and Forecasting
- Transforming the Close Process through Technology (Faster, Virtual, Continuous, etc.)
- Leveraging Technology for the strategic planning process

Leadership and Professional Development

Suggested Topics:

- Change Management (Leading and/or adapting)
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Communication Skills
- Company Culture & Values
- Conflict Management
- Motivating and Inspiring Others
- Negotiating Skills for Career Advancement
- Networking Skills
- Talent Management
- Performance Management Techniques
- Personal Goal Setting and Professional Development

Ethics

Suggested Topics:

- Communicating an Effective Conflict of Interest Policy That Employees Can Understand
- Ensuring Ethical Behavior of Your Stakeholders
- Creating Policies and Procedures for Code of Conduct
- Ethical Budgeting – How to Prevent Gaming the Budgeting Process
- Ethical Treatment of Internal and External Stakeholders
- How to Avoid Being Drawn Into Fraud
- Impact of Overly Aggressive Performance Goals
- Tone at the Top and Fostering an Ethical Climate

Other Relevant Management Accounting Topics (i.e. Best Practices, Innovation)