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Using AI and Automation Better and Faster Period Ending Procedures

Credits	Field of Study	Course Category	Level
2.0	Accounting	General	Intermediate

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The month-end close shouldn't feel like a recurring nightmare where the final balance is a ghost that won't stop moving. Most teams are stuck in a cycle of manual reconciliations and frantic spreadsheet updates that turn the first week of every month into a stressful marathon. This course changes that narrative by turning the close into a well-oiled machine. It explores how to map out the critical path so that a late bank statement doesn't stall the entire process. The curriculum covers real-world examples, like how a controller can use AI-driven anomaly detection to flag exceptions or deploy logic-based triggers to handle recurring accruals without human intervention. It isn't just about speed; it's about giving the finance team their weekends back while ensuring the final reports are bulletproof. By the time the session wraps up, practitioners will have a blueprint for a workflow that runs on autopilot using the latest automation and artificial intelligence tools.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Identify common bottlenecks in the traditional closing cycle that are candidates for AI-driven automation.

• Map task dependencies and sequencing to optimize the order of operations during the close.

• Compare methods for automating recurring journal entries and high-volume reconciliations using logic-based triggers.

• Implement status tracking mechanisms and AI tools to provide real-time visibility into the closing progress.

• Evaluate how artificial intelligence can detect anomalies in financial data before the books are officially closed.

MAJOR TOPICS

• The anatomy of a modern month-end close

• Dependency mapping and critical path analysis for accounting tasks

• Automating recurring entries and accruals within the ERP

• Leveraging AI for automated account reconciliations and anomaly detection

• Visibility and collaboration tools for distributed finance teams

• Maintaining audit trails and internal rigor in an automated workflow

• Practical applications of generative AI for financial reporting summaries

WHAT YOU'LL WALK AWAY WITH

• You'll stop chasing manual updates by setting up logic-based triggers for your recurring accruals.

• You'll spot errors before they hit the final reports using AI-driven anomaly detection.

• You'll map out a critical path that prevents one late document from stalling your entire team.

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• You'll gain real-time visibility into your closing progress without sending a single 'status update' email.

• You'll use generative AI to draft your financial reporting summaries in a fraction of the usual time.

QUESTIONS

What level of technical expertise do I need for this course?

This is an intermediate course designed for professionals who already understand corporate accounting cycles. You don't need to be a programmer, but you should have a basic familiarity with general ledger software.

Will this course show me how to handle high-volume reconciliations?

Yes. We compare different methods for automating high-volume tasks using logic-based triggers to reduce manual intervention.

Does this cover how to manage a team that isn't all in the same office?

It does. The curriculum includes specific strategies for using visibility and collaboration tools tailored for distributed finance teams.

Is there any specific software I need to install before we begin?

No advanced preparation or specific software installations are required for this session. We focus on the logic and tools you can apply to your existing ERP and automation stack.

How does AI fit into the audit trail requirements?

We dedicate time to maintaining internal rigor and audit trails within an automated workflow. You'll learn how to use AI for anomaly detection while keeping your books bulletproof and compliant.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

I spent years watching my team treat the first week of every month like a crisis, losing weekends to spreadsheets that never seemed to balance. I wrote this course because I realized we were working for our software rather than making the technology work for us. It is for the controller who's tired of chasing bank statements and wants to build a process that actually stays on track.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Who Should Attend:** Controllers, accounting managers, and finance professionals responsible for financial reporting and month-end operations.
- **Prerequisites:** Basic familiarity with corporate accounting cycles and general ledger software.
- **Advanced Preparation:** None
- **Tags:** month-end close, automation, artificial intelligence, financial reporting, process improvement, AI in accounting
- **Course ID:** 2206
- **Short Name:** Automating the Month-End Close


USING AI AND AUTOMATION
BETTER AND FASTER
PERIOD ENDING
PROCEDURES