

# Business Rules: A Roundtrip Journey on the Road to Success

## Course Description

This one-day advanced course focuses on the heart of functional requirements: *business rules*. Business rules are an essential part of business analysis. They define, constrain, or enable the behavior of software or business processes. For business analysts, it's a difficult challenge to derive, specify, verify, and validate business rules that are correct, consistent, clear, and complete. This course teaches you how.

You will learn to identify business rules to refine analysis models such as events, state diagrams, use cases, and the logical data model. You will dig into the details of writing atomic (very granular) business rules and learn how to apply the six categories of rules and their syntax. You will learn to write precise, testable, business rule statements. You will also explore critical tasks for managing and enforcing business rules.

The six exercises and the supporting detailed worksheets will guide you as you actively elicit, analyze, and specify a robust set of rules.

## Audience

This course is valuable for business analysts, application analysts, data analysts, designers, and quality assurance personnel. Preferably, you should have reading knowledge of use cases, logical data models, and state diagrams.

## Course Length

1 day

## Objectives

- Describe the need to elicit and analyze business rules
- Use focus questions to uncover business rules
- Write precise, testable business rules
- Use business rules to test the completeness and correctness of user requirements
- Trace business rules to requirements

- Describe the value of separating business rules from requirements

## Course Outline

### 1. Fundamentals of Business Rules

- Definitions: requirements and rules
- Requirements Roadmap and model views
- Business rule analysis roles
- Business rule derivation and definition

### 2. Eliciting Business Rules

- Sources of business rules
- Eliciting rules in other models:
  - Events, stories, use cases
  - Data model, data dictionary
  - State diagram

- Focus questions to elicit rules
- Rules and external interfaces
- Analyzing business rules

### 3. Specifying Business Rules

- Business rule taxonomies
- Business rule templates
- Transforming natural language to business rules
- Writing atomic-level business rules
- Leveraging decision tables for complex rules

### 4. Managing Business Rules

- Requirements attributes for rules
- Benefits of a shared rule repository
- Role of the business rule steward
- Tracing rules to requirements
- Verifying and testing rules
- Business rule enforcement options
- Business rule engines

### 5. Summary

- Benefits of specifying business rules
- Recap of the journey
- How business rules provide quality specifications

## Appendices

Case Study and Sample Solutions  
Business Rules Worksheets