

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

## Course Description

This one-day, instructor-led, hands-on advanced course focuses an essential component of business analysis and functional requirements: *business rules*. Business analysts must be able to actively participate in business rule work to elicit, specify, verify, and validate business rules that are correct, clear, consistent, complete, and relevant.

You'll learn and practice identifying business rules to refine analysis models such as events, state diagrams, use cases, user stories, and logical data details. The course uses the EBG Requirements Roadmap\* to aid in navigating among the models. You dig into the details of writing atomic-level business rules using six categories of rules and their syntax. You explore writing precise, testable, business rule statements. You identify critical tasks for managing and enforcing business rules.

In this carefully designed and executed learning environment you'll actively learn through lecture, examples, discussions, exercises, and review sessions. In nine exercises, using detailed worksheets, you learn to actively elicit, analyze, and specify a robust set of business rules that are integrated with other user requirements.

This course is endorsed by the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA®) and aligns with the IIBA's *Business Analysis Body of Knowledge (BABOK®)* applicable tasks and techniques. You'll earn 7 PDs (Professional Development hours) for initial certification or 7 CDUs (Continuing Development Units) by attending this course.

\*The EBG Requirements Roadmap is a set of interrelated models (behavioral, structural, dynamic, and control) at varying levels of detail.

## Who Should Attend

This course is valuable for business analysts, application analysts, data analysts, designers, and quality assurance personnel. Familiarity with use cases, logical data models, and state diagrams is helpful but not required.

## Course Length

1 day

## Course Objectives

- Describe the necessity and value of eliciting and analyzing business rules
- Use focus questions to elicit business rules
- Explore writing precise, testable business rules
- Use business rules to test the completeness and correctness of user requirements
- Trace business rules to other requirements
- Describe value of separating business rules from other requirements

## Course Materials

The material includes detailed text and illustrations, reusable specification templates, focus questions and checklists.

## Course Outline

### 1. Fundamentals of Business Rules

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

### 2. Eliciting Business Rules

- Sources of business rules
- Use focus questions to elicit business rules in analysis models and external interfaces:
  - Events, stories, use cases, activity diagrams
  - Data model, data dictionary
  - State diagram
- Analyze business rules

### 3. Specifying Business Rules

- Business rule taxonomies
- Business rule templates, business rule syntax
- Transform natural language to business rules
- Write atomic-level business rules
- Leverage decision tables and decision trees for complex business rules

### 4. Managing Business Rules

- Requirements attributes for business rules
- Benefits of a shared business rule repository
- Role of the business rule steward
- Trace business rules to user requirements
- Verify and test business rules
- Business rule engines

### 5. Summary

- Benefits of specifying business rules
- Recap of the roundtrip journey
- How business rules help projects succeed