

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP COURSE DESCRIPTION

Strategic Thinking, Planning and Decision Making

Strategic Thinking:

The process of making choices today in order to achieve desired outcomes in the future is often called strategic thinking. In organizations, the word strategy gets used a lot. We all know strategies are essential. But the meaning can be frustratingly elusive. This course explores the true meaning of strategy, what strategies are good for, and what makes creating and implementing shared strategies hard.

Course Objectives:

- Explain, in the context of organizations, the meaning and importance of strategies
- Identify and characterize the different ways strategies can be utilized
- Combine criteria and key questions for effective strategic thinking
- Compile a list of different types of creative foresight requirements and methods
- Describe the benefits of systems thinking

Strategic Decision Making:

When selecting a course of action from among alternatives we use decision-making. But how can you be certain that the decisions are strategic? Strategic decisions are likely to affect operational decisions, and 'set off waves of lesser decisions.' This course discusses decision making from strategic perspectives that help organizations gain and sustain a competitive advantage and create value.

Course Objectives:

- Identify one's own methods and characteristics of decision making
- Examine the seven criteria of strategic decisions
- Categorize decision type models
- Describe five decision making tools

Strategic Planning:

Strategy development occurs in three separate but interdependent stages: strategic thinking, strategic decision making and strategic planning. Strategic thinking is where information is analyzed and interpreted to make sense of it for an organization. Strategic decision making is where the decisions are made about which strategy to pursue. Strategic planning, the focus of this course, is about implementation and doing, about action.

Course Objectives:

- Examine the 5 components of strategy
- Complete a strategic planning audit
- Identify strategic planning steps
- Compare and contrast mission and vision statements