



White House Workshop

The Executive Branch and Congress

The definitive overview of how the White House, agencies, and OMB interact with Congress.

Our expert faculty provide you with up-to-date information on every aspect of how the White House, OMB and OIRA, and the executive agencies interact with Congress. Topics include current issues in executive-congressional relations and performance-based budgeting.

Sample Agenda

Day One

8:30 Welcome and Introductions

8:35 The Presidency and the Executive Branch

Overview of the Executive Office of the President, the Cabinet, the relationship between the president and the executive branch as a whole, the ability of the president to lead or manage the executive branch bureaucracy, and the relations between political appointees and career civil servants.

9:40 Break

9:50 The President's Management Agenda

The President's Management Agenda is discussed, reviewing strategic human capital, financial management, e-government, competitive sourcing, and budget and performance integration. The standards for success ("getting to green") and key factors for improved performance will be reviewed, the current experience of federal agencies will be described.

11:00 Break

11:10 Legislative-Executive Relations

Stability and change in relations between Congress and the executive, the elements of cooperation and conflict between the two branches with a focus on impact of congressional lawmaking, oversight, and representation on the executive branch.

12:10 Networking Lunch

1:15 The President's Legislative Powers and Influence

Factors that determine a president's "success" in passing his legislative agenda, and the impact of unified or divided party control.

2:30 Break

2:40 The Program Assessment Rating Tool

OMB's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) as part of the budget process, and PART methodology, results, and plans to revise and use the tool in the future.

4:00 Day One concludes

Day Two

8:30 The Roles of the Executive Branch in the Legislative Process

Roles of the executive branch in proposing legislation; formulating positions on legislation; communicating those positions to the Congress; and implementing the law. The current Administration will be compared to other recent Administrations.

9:30 Break

9:45 Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch

Goals and purposes of legislative oversight and how our constitutional scheme of separated but shared powers impacts those goals and purposes. Investigations will be distinguished from other methods of the oversight process. Review of the legal basis for investigative oversight, description of the essential tools available to committees to make it effective, discussion of the problems that may arise in enforcing the investigative prerogative, and actions that may be taken to circumvent such problems.

11:15 Break

11:30 Watch Dogs: Inspectors General and GAO

History and evolution of the differing roles and functions of the offices of Inspectors General and GAO, and the Executive's response to them. How Walker v. Cheney may affect GAO's ability to perform oversight support functions for the Congress.

12:30 Networking Lunch

1:30 Current Issues in Executive-Congressional Relations

2:30 Break

2:45 How Federal Agencies Handle Congressional Relations

Panel of representatives from executive agencies will discuss the organization and responsibilities of their agencies' legislative affairs teams, how a legislative affairs shop can educate and work most effectively with Capitol Hill, and advocacy restrictions.

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Sample Agendas: See how others have used our training. Selected sample agendas from actual programs designed for previous clients are on our web site at www.SampleAgendas.com

When: Requires two to three full days (usually 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day)

Where: Your location

Who: This course is appropriate for junior, rising and senior-level staff.

Course Fee: Inside the Washington, DC metropolitan area, when the course is offered on the client's site with all breaks provided by the client, this course is cost-effective with as few as twenty attendees.

