



STUDENT ACTIVATION



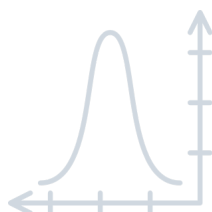
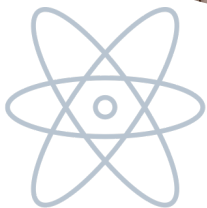
Cost Controller

OVERVIEW

A cost controller is the individual who is responsible for making sure that a project—often a construction or manufacturing project—stays within a prescribed budget. The cost controller might work in an office or might work onsite at a construction or manufacturing site. Either way, it's likely that no two days are exactly the same for a cost controller. A cost controller will track the progress of a project and maintain an accurate forecast of all of the elements with budget implications. As situations change, the cost controller must be ready to adapt and to solve problems. Cost controllers are smart, detail-oriented, and collaborative professionals who ensure that projects of various types and scales are completed successfully.

EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST

- I am detail-oriented and very organized.
- I enjoy getting a good bargain!
- I can solve problems as they arise and seek help when necessary.
- I am adaptable and can adjust my plan based on changing circumstances.
- I enjoy working as part of a team and coordinating with others.
- I have strong math skills.
- I like to see a project through, from inception to successful completion.



Cost Controller

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



How does this career affect me?	What are some other similar careers?	How does this career affect the world?
<p>If you've ever bought or wanted to buy a smartphone, you'll know that it's expensive. Phones manufactured by companies such as Apple or Samsung are priced as highly as they are in part because the highly advanced electronic elements needed to make them are expensive in themselves. But there are other factors that companies must consider when deciding on the sales price for an item, and some of those factors are ones that a cost controller impacts. By keeping down unexpected costs during the manufacturing process, a cost controller enables a company to sell smart phones at the prices you've seen. Without a cost controller, the price tag would be even higher when products hit the shelves!</p>	<p>Budget analysts are professionals who help companies, government agencies, and organizations such as universities plan their finances. They prepare budget reports and assess spending, not for one specific project, but company-wide.</p> <p>Construction managers often plan the budgets for construction projects, but they are responsible for more than that. They are also responsible for the overall plan and oversight of the progress of construction projects from start to finish.</p> <p>Industrial production managers oversee the operations of manufacturing facilities. This includes overseeing the plant's budget and workers, improving and streamline processes, and fixing any production problems that arise.</p>	<p>Cost controllers ensure that large-scale projects are completed successfully and in a timely manner. An example is the Trans Mountain Pipeline between Alberta and British Columbia, Canada, which is an effort to create a more efficient way to transport oil throughout Canada. This oil will be used across the country for cars and buses, to heat homes, and to enable manufacturing and commerce. Without the pipeline, oil might be scarcer, more expensive, or both. And without the cost controller, the project might never be completed successfully.</p>



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STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



TAKE ACTION

- Volunteer to help your family plan an event, like a birthday celebration or a weekend activity. Work with your family to set a budget for the event and then make a plan to stick to it. Make a list of all the supplies, food, and beverages that you'll need for the event. Decide the best way to get to the event and research how much that form of transportation will cost (Will you need to purchase gas to drive there? Will you need to purchase a bus ticket?) Once you have accounted for all of the necessary costs, compare them to the budget you and your family agreed upon. If you are over budget, where can you cut costs but still get the same or a similar outcome? If you are under budget, is there anything you would like to buy with the remaining funds that would make the outcome even better?
- Next time your family needs to go grocery shopping, help them find ways to save money based on their shopping list. Visit the grocery store's website or use a printed circular to research the items that your family needs to purchase. See where there are adjustments to what your family typically buys that could save money. Could you buy the store brand version of a product instead of a name brand? Could you buy in bulk, which might be more expensive up front but would save your family money in the long run? Are there sacrifices you might suggest, such as purchasing regular instead of organic produce? Make a list of your cost-saving suggestions and share them with your family. Get your family's feedback on whether there might be reasons that they sometimes purchase the more expensive version, such as time-saving or health benefits.
- Reach out to your town or county's school district office and ask if you can interview whoever is responsible for managing the school district's budget. Do some research online to see if you can identify any public records related to how the school district allocates its budget. Then, prepare a list of questions to ask during your interview. Ask how the district decides what to prioritize and how it cut costs when necessary. Share the results of your interview with your class.

