



Course 402 – Tax Policy

Course Description

Think tax policy is boring? Think again. Certified IAAO instructors will lead students through interactive discussions and activities designed to get them thinking about tax policy as an applied topic within their jurisdictions. Course 402 equips learners with the ability to support the role and significance of property tax to policymakers and the public alike. The course provides students with tools and resources to help them explain the effects of property tax and a sound theoretical basis to guide decision-making and assist in creating workable solutions for their jurisdictions. If you interact with the public and policymakers, then Course 402 is for you.

Objectives

Terminal course objective: Upon completion of Course 402, learners will be able to defend the role and significance of the property tax to policymakers and the public and actively support the improvement of property tax systems and policies.

Preparation module objective: Learners will remember foundational terms and concepts related to the governmental, legal, and fiscal structural environments influencing United States tax policy.

Session 1.1 objective: Learners will remember relevant terms and concepts related to the governmental, legal, and fiscal structural environments influencing United States tax policy.

Session 1.2 objective: Learners will remember assessing officers' key roles in tax policy.

Session 1.3 objective: Learners will demonstrate an understanding of terms and concepts related to evaluating taxes and measuring tax distribution and equity.

Session 2.1 objective: Learners will apply evaluative criteria and tax equity measures to compare bases, rates, and functions of major state and local government revenue sources.

Session 2.2 objective: Learners will apply tax equity measures to review data and compare overall tax structures.

Session 3.1 objective: Learners will demonstrate an understanding of the potential advantages and disadvantages of common property tax system features.

Session 3.2 objective: Learners will demonstrate an understanding of IAAO standards recommending best practices in property tax administration.

Session 3.3 objective: Synthesize previous material via guided activities to formulate an argument in defense of the property tax.

Timed Outline

NOTE: Session time approximations **include** activities within the session.

Part 1

| Content | Approx. Time | Day Presented |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Session 1.1: Taxation Environment | 195 Minutes | Day 1 AM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 1a: Separation of Powers Under the U.S. Constitution | 10 Minutes | Day 1 AM |
| 1b: Supreme Court Decisions on Revaluing Properties Only Upon Sale | 5 Minutes | Day 1 AM |
| Session 1.2: Key Roles of Assessing Officers | 100 Minutes | Day 1 PM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 1c: Identifying Positive and Normative Statements | 5 Minutes | Day 1 PM |
| 1d: Practice writing positive statements | 10 Minutes | Day 1 PM |
| 1e: Key Roles Reflection | 5 Minutes | Day 1 PM |
| Session 1.3: Evaluating Taxes | 175 Minutes | Day 1 PM/Day 2 AM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 1f: Ruling on Property Tax Uniformity | 20 Minutes | Day 1 PM |
| 1g: Equity Measures Examples | 5 Minutes | Day 2 AM |
| Quiz #1 | 30 Minutes | Day 2 AM |

Part 2

| Content | Approx. Time | Day Presented |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Session 2.1: State & Local Fiscal Structures | 90 Minutes | Day 2 AM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 2a: Comparing Tax Burdens Between States | 30 Minutes | Day 2 AM |
| Session 2.2: Taxes as a Revenue Source | 225 Minutes | Day 2 PM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 2b: Guided Note Taking | 60 Minutes | Day 2 PM |
| 2c: Substituting Income Tax for Property Tax to Fund Schools | 15 Minutes | Day 2 PM |
| Quiz #2 | 30 Minutes | Day 2 PM/Day 3 AM |

Part 3

| Content | Approx. Time | Day Presented |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Session 3.1: Property Tax System Features | 300 Minutes | Day 3 AM/PM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 3a: Comparing Revenue Effects of Different Systems | 15 Minutes | Day 3 AM |
| 3b: Ranking Market Value Alternatives | 20 Minutes | Day 3 AM/PM |
| 3c: Disadvantages of Value Increase Constraints | 5 Minutes | Day 3 PM |
| 3d: Calculating Tax Shifts Resulting from Exemptions | 20 Minutes | Day 3 PM |
| Session 3.2: Model Property Tax Administration | 155 Minutes | Day 4 AM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 3e: Setting Standards and Monitoring Performance | 10 Minutes | Day 4 AM |
| 3f: Advantages and Challenges of Data Sharing | 10 Minutes | Day 4 AM |
| Session 3.3: Sustaining the Property Tax | 90 Minutes | Day 4 PM |
| <u>Activities</u> | | |
| 3g: Potential Solutions to Common Issues | 20 Minutes | Day 4 PM |
| 3h: "Rethinking the Property Tax-School Funding Dilemma" | 30 Minutes | Day 4 PM |
| Quiz #3 | 30 Minutes | Day 4 PM |