Advanced Policy Evaluation Methods Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In today's complex and data-driven world, **evidence-based policymaking** is more critical than ever. The ability to rigorously assess the impact of policies and programs is essential for ensuring accountability, optimizing resource allocation, and driving meaningful social change. This course goes beyond introductory concepts to equip you with the advanced analytical skills and methodologies necessary for designing and conducting robust evaluations. We'll explore the latest techniques in **causal inference**, **impact evaluation**, and **mixed-methods research**, preparing you to navigate the challenges of real-world policy analysis.

Advanced Policy Evaluation Methods Training Course is designed for professionals who need to move beyond simple descriptive analysis to truly understand "what works" and "why." It focuses on **quantitative methods** and **qualitative approaches** that can isolate a policy's effect from other factors. Through practical exercises and real-world **case studies**, you'll learn to apply state-of-the-art tools and frameworks to diverse policy areas, from public health to economic development. The curriculum emphasizes the entire evaluation lifecycle, from a **theory of change** development and **research design** to **data analysis** and the effective communication of findings to **policymakers** and stakeholders.

Programme Curriculum

Advanced Policy Evaluation Methods Training Course

Introduction

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Course Objectives

1. **Master advanced research designs** for rigorous impact evaluation, including experimental and quasi-experimental methods.
2. Apply **causal inference** techniques to isolate the net effect of a policy or program.
3. Develop robust **theory of change** frameworks and logic models for complex interventions.
4. Utilize **quantitative methods** such as Difference-in-Differences (DiD), Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), and Instrumental Variables (IV).
5. Integrate **qualitative methods** to explore process, context, and unintended consequences.
6. Effectively manage and analyze large-scale administrative and survey **data sets**.
7. Conduct **cost-benefit analysis** and **cost-effectiveness analysis** to assess the value-for-money of policies.
8. Design and implement **monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems** for continuous program improvement.
9. Address common challenges like **selection bias**, endogeneity, and data limitations.
10. Communicate complex evaluation findings clearly and persuasively to diverse **stakeholders**.
11. Apply **ethical principles** to evaluation design, data collection, and reporting.
12. Leverage modern software and **data analytics tools** for advanced analysis.
13. Synthesize findings from **systematic reviews** and meta-analysis for evidence-informed recommendations.

Target Audience

1. **Government Officials** and Public Sector Employees involved in policy design, implementation, and evaluation.
2. **M&E Specialists** and practitioners seeking to enhance their technical skills.
3. **Researchers** and Analysts in academia, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
4. **Development Professionals** working on international aid and development projects.
5. **Policy Advisors** and Consultants advising on evidence-based decision-making.
6. **Graduate Students** in public policy, public administration, economics, and sociology.
7. **Program Managers** responsible for assessing the performance of their initiatives.
8. **Data Scientists** and Analysts interested in the application of their skills to social and public issues.

Course Modules

Module 1: Foundations of Advanced Policy Evaluation

- **The Policy Evaluation Landscape:** Evolving role of evaluation, from simple monitoring to rigorous impact assessment.
- **The Counterfactual:** Understanding the core challenge of causal inference and the "what if" scenario.
- **Logic Models and Theory of Change:** Designing a robust framework that links program activities to intended outcomes.
- **Mixed-Methods Approach:** Combining quantitative and qualitative data for a comprehensive understanding.
- **Case Study:** Analyzing a public health campaign's theory of change to identify key evaluation questions.

Module 2: Experimental Designs: The Gold Standard

- **Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs):** Designing and implementing an RCT to establish causality.
- **Sampling and Power Analysis:** Determining the necessary sample size for statistically significant results.
- **Ethical Considerations in RCTs:** Ensuring the well-being of participants and addressing fairness issues.
- **Practical Implementation:** Navigating the logistics and challenges of fieldwork for an RCT.
- **Case Study:** Evaluating a cash transfer program's impact on poverty reduction using a cluster-randomized design.

Module 3: Quasi-Experimental Designs (QEDs)

- **Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD):** Exploiting a policy threshold to estimate causal effects.
- **Difference-in-Differences (DiD):** Comparing changes over time between treatment and control groups.
- **Instrumental Variables (IV):** Using a proxy to overcome endogeneity and omitted variable bias.
- **Matching Methods:** Creating a valid comparison group using Propensity Score Matching (PSM).
- **Case Study:** Analyzing the impact of a new minimum wage policy on employment using a DiD approach.

Module 4: Econometric Methods for Policy Analysis

- **Multivariate Regression Analysis:** Controlling for confounding variables to isolate a policy's effect.
- **Panel Data Analysis:** Leveraging data collected over multiple time periods.
- **Addressing Selection Bias:** Using Heckman correction and other advanced techniques.
- **Robustness Checks:** Verifying the stability of your findings with sensitivity analysis.
- **Case Study:** Investigating the long-term impact of an educational intervention using a panel dataset.

Module 5: Qualitative and Process Evaluation

- **In-Depth Interviews and Focus Groups:** Gathering rich, contextual data on how a policy works.
- **Process Tracing and Contribution Analysis:** Understanding the causal pathways and factors that contributed to outcomes.
- **Ethical Qualitative Research:** Ensuring confidentiality and informed consent.
- **Qualitative Data Analysis Software (e.g., NVivo):** Using tools to code and analyze textual data.
- **Case Study:** Conducting a process evaluation of a new school curriculum to understand implementation challenges and successes.

Module 6: Cost and Economic Evaluation

- **Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA):** Monetizing all costs and benefits to determine a policy's net social value.

- **Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA):** Comparing the costs of different interventions to achieve a specific outcome.
- **Discounting Future Costs and Benefits:** Valuing future impacts in today's terms.
- **Unintended Consequences and Externalities:** Identifying and valuing spillovers from a policy.
- **Case Study:** Comparing the cost-effectiveness of two different public health programs for disease prevention.

Module 7: Data Management and Analysis

- **Data Cleaning and Merging:** Preparing raw data from multiple sources for analysis.
- **Reproducible Research:** Using statistical software (e.g., R, Stata, Python) to ensure transparency.
- **Data Visualization:** Creating compelling charts and graphs to tell a data-driven story.
- **Survey Design and Data Collection:** Best practices for collecting high-quality quantitative data.
- **Case Study:** Cleaning and analyzing a survey dataset on community resilience to natural disasters.

Module 8: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems

- **Developing an M&E Framework:** Creating a system to track progress and performance.
- **Performance Indicators:** Defining key metrics for success and establishing baselines.
- **Routine Data Collection:** Setting up systems to gather data efficiently throughout a program's lifecycle.
- **Feedback Loops:** Using M&E data to inform and adapt program implementation.
- **Case Study:** Designing an M&E plan for a government-run vocational training program.

Module 9: Synthesis and Reporting Findings

- **Writing a Persuasive Evaluation Report:** Structuring a report that is clear, concise, and actionable.
- **Presenting to Policymakers:** Tailoring your message to non-technical audiences.
- **Policy Briefs and Infographics:** Creating a short, impactful summary of key findings.
- **Dissemination Strategy:** Getting your evaluation findings into the hands of those who can use them.
- **Case Study:** Presenting evaluation findings on a housing policy to a city council.

Module 10: Advanced Topics in Causal Inference

- **Synthetic Control Method (SCM):** Creating a "synthetic" control group from a weighted average of other units.
- **Difference-in-Differences with Multiple Time Periods and Groups:** Handling more complex data structures.
- **Machine Learning in Evaluation:** Using algorithms for prediction and causal analysis.
- **General Equilibrium Effects:** Considering how a policy's effects might ripple through the economy.
- **Case Study:** Using SCM to evaluate the economic impact of a major policy reform in a single state.

Module 11: Systematic Reviews and Evidence Synthesis

- **The Role of Systematic Reviews:** Synthesizing existing evidence to inform policy debates.
- **Meta-Analysis:** Statistically combining the results of multiple studies.
- **Identifying and Addressing Publication Bias:** Ensuring a balanced view of the evidence.
- **Evidence-Informed Policy Systems:** Integrating evaluation into government decision-making structures.
- **Case Study:** Conducting a systematic review on the effectiveness of different anti-poverty interventions globally.

Module 12: Big Data and Geospatial Analysis

- **Big Data for Evaluation:** Using administrative data, social media, and satellite imagery.
- **Geospatial Analysis (GIS):** Mapping and analyzing policy impacts by location.
- **Ethical Considerations with Big Data:** Privacy, security, and bias.
- **Data Security and Anonymization:** Protecting sensitive information.
- **Case Study:** Analyzing the impact of an urban renewal project on property values and local businesses using GIS data.

Module 13: Case Study Practicum I: Designing an Evaluation

- **Formulating Research Questions:** Developing a clear and testable hypothesis.
- **Selecting the Right Methodology:** Justifying the choice of evaluation design.
- **Developing a Data Collection Plan:** Outlining sources, methods, and a timeline.
- **Budgeting and Resource Allocation:** Creating a realistic plan for the evaluation.
- **Case Study:** Participants will work in groups to design a complete evaluation plan for a real-world policy challenge.

Module 14: Case Study Practicum II: Conducting the Analysis

- **Data Analysis:** Applying the learned quantitative and qualitative techniques to a provided dataset.
- **Interpreting Results:** Drawing meaningful conclusions from the analysis.
- **Handling Unexpected Findings:** Addressing limitations and confounding factors.
- **Peer Review:** Critiquing and providing feedback on group analysis plans.
- **Case Study:** Participants will execute their plans from Module 13, analyze provided data, and present their preliminary findings.

Module 15: Final Capstone: Policy Evaluation Simulation

- **Integrated Policy Evaluation:** Applying all course concepts to a comprehensive simulation.
- **Stakeholder Presentation:** Delivering a professional policy brief and a presentation of the findings.
- **Q&A Session:** Defending the evaluation design and findings in a simulated policy meeting.
- **Final Report:** Submitting a professional-grade evaluation report.
- **Case Study:** A full-day simulation where participants evaluate a simulated government program from start to finish.

Training Methodology

- **Expert-Led Lectures:** Concise and engaging sessions introducing core concepts.
- **Practical Exercises:** Applying learned techniques to real-world scenarios.
- **Group Discussions and Peer Learning:** Fostering collaboration and shared problem-solving.
- **Software Demonstrations:** Hands-on tutorials using professional **data analysis** software (e.g., Stata, R).
- **Real-World Case Studies:** Analyzing and dissecting successful and challenging policy evaluations.
- **Capstone Project:** A comprehensive, multi-part final project to synthesize all skills.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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