

The NSA Leadership Certificate Program at NSA Aspire 2024



Session 1: Leadership Foundations for Accounting Firms & Habit 1 (1 hour)

Session Schedule:

- 20 minutes of lecture
- 10 minutes of Q&A
- 10-minute exercise
- 10 minutes of discussion
- 10 minutes of summary and closing

Session Description:

In this opening session, we will lay the foundation for effective leadership within the context of accounting firms while exploring Habit 1: "Be Proactive" from Stephen Covey's 7 Habits. This session will set the stage for the entire program by providing an overview of leadership principles and encouraging participants to take control of their leadership roles.

Agenda:

1. Lecture (20 minutes):

- Introduction to the importance of leadership in accounting firms.
- Explanation of Stephen Covey's Habit 1: "Be Proactive."
- Discussion of how Habit 1 applies to leadership in the accounting profession.
- Real-world examples of proactive leadership within accounting firms.

2. Q&A (10 minutes):

- Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about leadership and Habit 1.
- Facilitator will address queries and provide clarification on the concepts discussed.

3. Exercise (10 minutes):

- Participants will engage in a brief exercise to assess their current leadership styles and habits.
- The exercise will involve self-reflection and identifying areas for improvement.
- Participants will be encouraged to think about how they can apply Habit 1 to their leadership roles.

4. Discussion (10 minutes):

- Small group discussions or breakout sessions (if applicable) to share insights and reflections from the exercise.
- Participants will discuss specific challenges they face in being proactive leaders in their accounting firms.
- Sharing of best practices and strategies for proactivity in leadership.

5. Summary and Closing (10 minutes):

- Recap of key takeaways from the lecture, exercise, and discussions.
- Emphasis on the importance of proactivity in accounting firm leadership.
- Announcement of homework or pre-session reading assignments related to Habit 1.
- Encouragement for participants to apply Habit 1 principles in their daily leadership activities until the next session.

By the end of Session 1, participants will have a foundational understanding of the role of leadership in accounting firms, a grasp of Habit 1, and practical exercises to begin their leadership journey. The session will conclude with a sense of purpose and commitment to proactive leadership principles as they continue their leadership development throughout the program.