



Company

Vision

Why SAP

Solution

Benefits

#### Company

Aarhus Business College

#### **Industry**

Higher education and research

#### **Products and Services**

**Business courses** 

#### **Web Site**

www.aabc.dk

#### SAP® Solutions and Services

E-academy program from the SAP® Education organization



Aarhus Business College may have been founded in 1865, but it takes a **21st-century approach to education**. That's why the college teamed with the e-academy program from the SAP® Education organization to offer expert training to its students to supplement standard classroom instruction. The online, self-paced training prepares students for associate certification in SAP software, giving them an edge in being hired at one of the 600 companies across Denmark that run SAP solutions.



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# Offering e-learning to complement classroom training

Aarhus Business College serves about 10,000 students annually; typically they are adults or people who have left school and want to return. The school offers full- and part-time education courses in general business services, international marketing and export management, banking and finance, public administration, general management, information technology, multimedia and distance learning, computer sciences, and modern languages.

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### Meeting employers' needs for staff trained in SAP software

Aarhus' mission is to offer national vocational and business education and training programs. The programs are regulated and supported by the ministry of education and a number of advisory bodies, including labor organizations. In its effort to create a modern learning environment, the college supports interdisciplinary learning, integrated theory, and practice. It collaborates with both students and Danish enterprises to ensure that its services meet national requirements.

At the e-academy, students log on via laptop and broadband to a remotely hosted server running a genuine SAP software landscape. They view slide shows and demonstrations that explain the software step-by-step, and then they do exercises. For example, they use the SAP ERP application to make a purchase requisition, turn it into a purchase order, and receive and stock material. They take a sales order and fulfill it, right through delivery to the customer and invoice and payment processing. They learn how to customize and set up master data in the application for customers, suppliers, and materials.

"These are not recorded transactions; students go into the real solution and work like they would at a company," says Theodor Skov, project manager at Aarhus. "The e-academy program from SAP Education is important because companies want candidates with hands-on experience using SAP software."

"The main advantage is that students have a chance to work with a live SAP solution."

Theodor Skov, Project Manager, Aarhus Business College



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## Comprehensive instruction plus specialty focus

Skov says that the decision to offer the e-academy courses was simple. "SAP is by far the most widely used software in Denmark, so it made sense to work with SAP Education," says Skov. "Also, with the e-academy program expert training, we didn't have to buy and maintain our own servers, since SAP hosts the courses." In addition, Aarhus had previous experience with classroom courses in SAP software.

The six-week course, a blend of classroom and e-learning, begins with a generalized two-week overview session and then forks into specialties. Students can focus on the SAP ERP application, the SAP ERP Human Capital Management solution, the SAP Supply Chain Management application, the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform, and the ABAP® programming language.

"Whenever one of the 600 companies across Denmark that run SAP software publishes a job opening, it will always advertise that knowledge of SAP software is a big advantage; sometimes it's even a requirement," Skov says. "Students who complete the course also achieve the qualifications for what we call a junior consultant. This means they can apply for a job at one of the private consultancy firms that help companies implement SAP software."







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### **Enabling learners to study** at their own pace

Students enrolled in the e-academy program courses offered by SAP Education tackle the subject matter on demand, at a pace tailored to their individual situation and requirements. They are also allowed to complete the six-week course over a period of three months and can get support from an online help desk at any time, 24x7.

A task-specific approach provides concentrated instruction in the various features and functions of the SAP solutions that learners wish to master. For example, students studying the SAP ERP Financials solution will learn how to accelerate and improve customer accounting processes and record and manage accounting data for vendors. They will focus on how to better manage bank master data and cash balances and streamline accounting accruals.

At the end of the training, students will have learned how to expedite reconciliations, simplify audits, and increase financial transparency. They also will be able to accelerate financial closes and increase the accuracy of financial reporting, as well as proactively manage asset lifecycles for increased efficiency.







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### **Further schooling for graduates**

Graduates of the e-academies not only seek employment, but many also advance to a higher level of education to pursue bachelor and candidate degrees at universities and business schools. In addition to training at its own business college, Aarhus offers training to students at the university level via sixweek e-academy summer courses.

"We also work closely with SAP on e-academy training in the actual workplace and have attained preferred training partner status from SAP," Skov says. "When SAP Education in Denmark offers a company training, SAP focuses on the superuser and consultancy training and we do the end-user training. We have quite a broad cooperative relationship with SAP"

That's good for students and workers across Denmark. In today's competitive economy, companies want employees to begin work the first day with a strong grounding in SAP software so they can contribute and add value quickly. And with the current emphasis around governance, risk, and control, it's essential that workers clearly understand their duties and roles within the larger corporate framework. "We devote a lot of training to helping people understand multiple business procedures, even beyond their own duties, to demonstrate how everything is integrated in SAP software," Skov says. And for Aarhus, e-academy courses from SAP Education have helped the company gain its own competitive advantage in the education market.

"In the SAP solution landscape, if you enter incorrect information, it has an effect on other areas of your business. Therefore, the more people understand the consequences of their choices, the more they will be able to perform their work optimally."



Theodor Skov, Project Manager, Aarhus Business College