

INFORMATION EDUCATES

Crystal Ball Education Alliance



As organizations embrace Oracle's Crystal Ball, the need for skilled users is growing. The Crystal Ball Education Alliance addresses that need with low-cost software, training, and resources for the education community.

"Crystal Ball makes it easy for students to see the effects of uncertainty on bottom-line performance measures. In my opinion, Crystal Ball is the most effective tool available for quantifying and analyzing the risks inherent in most spreadsheet models."

Cliff Ragsdale
Professor
Virginia Tech

Aiming to provide hands-on experience with Crystal Ball's forecasting and simulation capabilities to students across a range of disciplines, the Education Alliance has offered high-quality, low-cost software to the education community for more than 20 years. The result is a partnership with the world's top educational institutions that extends far beyond software to provide the training, tools, and resources required to make Crystal Ball an essential part of their curricula—teaching tomorrow's leaders the technology of today.

Discounted Software

From Harvard to Johns Hopkins—and the more than 800 other university and college participants—Education Alliance partners enjoy access to full versions of Crystal Ball software at greatly discounted prices. Program licenses—ranging from short-term lab licenses to one-year standard editions for students and perpetual premium editions for professors—can be purchased through our education account team professionals, who

can help you assemble the right licensing package for your teaching needs. Any student with a current academic ID is eligible to purchase educational licenses.

Academic Resources

In addition to discounted software, the Education Alliance offers a comprehensive set of tools and resources for our classroom partners—all of which are available via the click of a mouse. These offerings include our Half-Day on Campus program, Web seminars, case studies, user conferences, user groups, professor kits, and more.

Textbooks

To provide our classroom partners with an ever-growing list of resources, Oracle is engaged in an ongoing discussion with authors of texts on simulation, forecasting, and risk analysis to encourage them to include Crystal Ball coverage. Many of those that choose to do so include free short-term editions of the software with their texts (that is, a full software version that expires

Fact: More than 800 colleges and universities use Crystal Ball software, including the top 50 business schools and 80 percent of *U.S. News and World Report's* top 125 schools.



after 140 days). To learn about the more than 100 titles currently available, go to www.crystalball.com/academic_books.html

On-Campus Seminars

If you're looking for the quickest way to get the word out about Crystal Ball to students and faculty, we can send a representative directly to your campus to present a one- to two-hour informational seminar on the software and its applications.

Newsletter

Another benefit of Education Alliance membership is the monthly newsletter, which offers reviews and interviews demonstrating how others are using Crystal Ball in their research and curricula.

Models

If you need models for classroom use, you can download them for free at the example model library (www.crystalball.com/models/model_index.html), which contains a wide range of spreadsheet models and case studies.

Departments and Applications

The software, training, and resources provided by the Education Alliance are used across a range of departments and applications.

- **Departments.** Engineering, business, environmental, finance, healthcare, insurance, management consulting, oil and gas, pharmaceutical, and telecommunications.

- **Applications.** Financial analysis, petroleum reserves, portfolio analysis, process modeling, project management, real options, Six Sigma, and Value-at-Risk.

Crystal Ball Features

A suite of Microsoft Excel add-ins, Crystal Ball software extends the analytical power of your spreadsheets, letting you solve problems involving uncertainty and variability.

Included among the software's myriad features are the following:

- **Monte Carlo simulation.** Assigns ranges of values to your inputs and automatically calculates thousands of scenarios in your spreadsheet models.
- **Distribution gallery.** Provides an intuitive interface for selecting distributions and describing the behavior of your input variables.
- **Categories of distributions.** Lets you create predefined distributions, modify existing distributions, and organize them according to custom categories.
- **Publish-and-subscribe capability.** Lets you define distributions and save them to categories, which you can then publish and share with other users.
- **Forecast charts.** Lets you fit distributions to forecasts during simulation and displays simulation results in a way that allows you to analyze thousands of potential outcomes.
- **Sensitivity and tornado analyses.** Provides charts and data views that allow you to identify critical input variables.

- **Charting and reporting capabilities.** Lets you choose between summary and in-depth reports, allowing you to use either default reports or custom-created tables and charts.

- **Assumptions.** Lets you define inputs graphically, add market lines to track specific values, and view both theoretical and empirical statistics.

- **Correlation.** Lets you model dependencies between uncertain input variables and span worksheets with correlated assumptions.

- **Crystal Ball tools.** Comprises Batch Fit, Bootstrap, Correlation Matrix, Decision Table, Scenario Analysis, Tornado Chart, and 2D Simulation to automate modeling and analysis.

- **OptQuest.** Searches for optimal solutions, taking into consideration model uncertainty, constraints, and requirements.

- **CB Predictor.** Analyzes your historical data to predict future outcomes using advanced time-series forecasting methods.

CONTACT US

To learn more, call +1.800.289.2550 to speak to an Oracle representative or visit crystalball.com/education

Outside North America, please call +1.303.534.1515.