COURSE SYLLABUS

Assessing Controls in Performance Audits Course

Learn to assess internal controls and identify risks in performance audits using practical techniques and real-world case studies.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/assessing-controls-in-performance-audits



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Course Outline

Module 1: Importance of Internal Controls

- Explain what internal controls are and how they are used.
- Explain the relationship between controls and processes, and how both affect program performance.
- Explain the types of controls and their purposes.
- Describe a model for a system of internal control.
- Describe two ways to monitor the effectiveness of a system of internal control.

Module 2: Government Standards for Implementing and Auditing Controls

- Decide when and how the government auditing standard for assessing controls applies.
- Discuss the “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” and apply them to a case exercise.

Module 3: Integrating Assessment of Controls in the Survey Phase

- Name three purposes of a survey.
- Decide what information needs to be pursued in a given survey using a list of common information needs.
- Cite sources of needed information.
- Apply one risk assessment method to select subject areas and controls for a follow-on audit.

Module 4: Planning Audits to Assess Controls

- Explain the basic approaches for conducting performance audits and the purpose of examining processes and controls in each approach.
- Describe the matters to consider when planning an audit to assess controls.
- Formulate audit objectives for assessing controls that clearly state what the audit is intended to accomplish.
- Apply a step-by-step process for designing performance audits to achieve the audit objectives and use a matrix to document the design.

Module 5: Documenting Controls

- Explore two key documentation methods: narrative description and flowcharting.
- Use flowcharts and process maps to visualize control structures.

- Understand how documentation supports control evaluation.

Module 6: Reporting Control Findings

- Describe the requirements for reporting on controls and how they are applied.
- Identify the nature of deficiencies in internal controls.
- Organize a finding by preparing an outline that aligns audit evidence with the appropriate finding element.

Module 7: Case Exercise

- Apply all learned concepts in a comprehensive case scenario.
- Identify mission-specific and integrity risks in real-world audit situations.
- Evaluate internal control effectiveness and formulate audit findings.