COURSE SYLLABUS

Federal Appropriations Law Refresher and Update (Self-Paced)

Get up-to-date on changes to appropriations law, recent GAO decisions, and Antideficiency Act implications.

> 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/federal-appropriations-law-refresher-and-update-self-paced



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Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction

- Review the purpose and objectives of federal appropriations law.
- Understand the scope and application of appropriations regulations in federal agencies.
- Introduce key terminology and concepts used in funding law.

Module 2: Legal Framework

- Examine constitutional provisions, statutes, and case law governing appropriations.
- Identify the roles of Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).
- Understand the hierarchy of legal authority in federal funding decisions.

Module 3: Availability of Appropriations — Purpose

- Explain the “Purpose Statute” and its role in determining legal expenditure uses.
- Discuss the principles of necessary expense doctrine.
- Review examples of permissible and impermissible use of funds.

Module 4: Reserved for Future Use

This section is intentionally left blank for future course updates and new guidance.

Module 5: Availability of Appropriations — Time

- Understand the rules governing the period of availability for federal funds.
- Differentiate between annual, multiple-year, and no-year appropriations.
- Review expiration and cancellation of appropriations.

Module 6: Availability of Appropriations — Amount

- Examine statutory limitations on the amount of appropriations available.
- Discuss the Anti-Deficiency Act and its implications for agency operations.
- Review reporting and corrective actions for violations.

Module 7: Obligation of Appropriations

- Define “obligation” in the context of federal appropriations law.
- Identify the legal criteria for valid obligations.
- Review common issues and errors in obligating funds.

Module 8: Continuing Resolutions

- Explain the purpose and function of continuing resolutions in maintaining government operations.
- Discuss the limitations and challenges of operating under continuing resolutions.
- Review compliance requirements during temporary funding measures.

Module 9: Liability and Relief of Accountable Officers

- Identify the responsibilities of accountable officers in federal financial management.
- Discuss legal liabilities and potential penalties for misuse of funds.
- Review processes for requesting and obtaining relief from liability.