COURSE SYLLABUS

Federal Appropriations Law (Self-Paced)

Master the principles of federal appropriations law to ensure the proper use of appropriated funds and compliance with legal requirements.

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-self-paced



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Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction

- Understand the objectives and scope of federal appropriations law.
- Recognize the importance of legal compliance in managing public funds.
- Identify key sources and resources for learning appropriations law.

Module 2: The Legal Framework

- Examine the hierarchy of laws, including the Constitution, statutes, and regulations.
- Understand the roles of Congress, the President, and the courts in appropriations.
- Identify key decisions from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and their impact.
- Review the relationship between appropriations law and administrative law.

Module 3: Availability of Appropriations: Purpose

- Learn the “Purpose Statute” and its application in federal spending.
- Identify restrictions on using funds for purposes other than those intended by Congress.
- Examine examples of permissible and impermissible uses of appropriations.
- Understand GAO interpretations and rulings on purpose violations.

Module 5: Availability of Appropriations: Time

- Understand time restrictions on the use of appropriated funds.
- Differentiate between one-year, multiple-year, and no-year appropriations.
- Learn about the Bona Fide Needs Rule and its application.
- Identify violations related to the timing of obligations and expenditures.

Module 6: Availability of Appropriations: Amount

- Understand the Antideficiency Act and its requirements.
- Identify rules for ensuring expenditures do not exceed appropriated amounts.
- Learn about apportionments, allocations, and allotments.
- Recognize penalties and consequences for violations of amount restrictions.

Module 7: Obligation of Appropriations

- Define what constitutes an obligation under appropriations law.
- Identify legal requirements for recording obligations.
- Distinguish between valid and invalid obligations.

Module 8: Continuing Resolutions

- Understand the role and purpose of continuing resolutions (CRs).
- Identify limitations on spending during a CR period.
- Review strategies for managing operations under CR funding.

Module 9: Liability and Relief of Accountable Officers

- Understand the responsibilities of accountable officers for federal funds.
- Identify types of liability, including physical loss and improper payments.
- Learn about processes for seeking relief from liability.