COURSE SYLLABUS

Federal Grant Law and Policy Framework Course

This two-day course helps federal grants and program staff apply the core legal and policy authorities governing federal financial assistance. Participants learn how these requirements translate into defensible grant decisions and reduced audit and oversight risk.

> 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-grant-law-and-policy-framework-course



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Course Outline

Module 1: Overview of Federal Grant Law and Policy

- Identify core sources of federal grant authority.
- Understand the hierarchy of legal and policy requirements.
- Recognize how grant law differs from procurement law.

Module 2: Authorizing Statutes and Appropriations

- Interpret statutory authority for grant programs.
- Understand appropriations constraints.
- Identify implications for allowable activities and funding use.

Module 3: Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act

- Explain the purpose and scope of the Act.
- Distinguish grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts.
- Apply the Act to award selection decisions.

Module 4: The Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)

- Understand the structure and purpose of the Uniform Guidance.
- Identify key requirements affecting grant management.
- Apply regulatory provisions to operational decisions.

Module 5: Agency-Specific Policies and Terms

- Identify agency supplements and policies.
- Understand the role of award terms and conditions.
- Recognize conflicts between policy and regulation.

Module 6: Administrative Discretion and Limits

- Identify areas where agencies and recipients have discretion.
- Recognize limits imposed by law and regulation.
- Avoid informal practices that exceed authority.

Module 7: Legal Risk and Oversight

- Identify legal risks in grant management.
- Understand oversight roles of OMB, GAO, and Inspectors General.
- Recognize how legal issues become audit findings.

Module 8: Enforcement, Remedies, and Corrective Actions

- Understand enforcement authorities under federal grants.
- Identify available remedies and sanctions.
- Apply proportional responses to noncompliance.

Module 9: Documentation and Defensibility

- Document decisions grounded in legal authority.
- Prepare grant files for legal and audit review.
- Avoid documentation gaps that increase risk.

Module 10: Capstone Simulation – Applying Grant Law and Policy

- Apply legal and policy concepts to a realistic scenario.
- Identify appropriate authorities for decisions.
- Support defensible grant management actions.