

Financial Management Bootcamp for Federal Auditors Course (Self-Paced)

Gain a concise overview of federal financial management fundamentals essential for auditors. Learn how to follow financial flows, understand appropriations, and identify potential mismanagement.

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: <https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/financial-management-bootcamp-for-federal-auditors-course-self-paced>



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Course Outline

Module 1: The Size and Scope of the National Budget

- Explore the U.S. national debt, annual deficit, and budget authority concepts
- Analyze mandatory vs. discretionary spending and spending trends
- Interpret real-time data on revenue and expenditures using government sources
- Understand the implications of deficit spending for federal auditors

Module 2: The Federal Budget Cycle

- Review the phases of the budget cycle from formulation to execution
- Understand budget authority, apportionment, allotments, and obligations
- Differentiate between reprogramming and illegal transfers of funds
- Explore year-end closeout practices, including unfunded requirements (UFRs)

Module 3: The Functions of Budget and Finance Professionals

- Meet key players in financial operations: CFOs, analysts, accountants, certifying officers
- Understand their roles in formulation, execution, reporting, and compliance
- Identify audit-relevant responsibilities of each function

Module 4: The Lifecycle of Federal Financial Transactions

- Follow a federal dollar from appropriation through disbursement
- Identify key internal controls and transaction documentation steps
- Understand how to detect and address unliquidated obligations (ULOs)

Module 5: Sources of Financial Authority and Internal Controls

- Review critical federal guidance including GAO's Red Book, Green Book, and OMB Circulars
- Apply the Purpose, Time, and Amount tests for spending legitimacy

- Link funding to performance through the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)

Module 6: Communications: Interactions and Restrictions

- Understand rules for communicating budget data within and outside the agency
- Navigate restrictions related to Congressional inquiries and the Anti-Lobbying Act
- Review OIG audit communication exceptions

Module 7: Wrapping It All Up

- Explore financial intelligence resources and government-wide collaboration forums
- Understand the role of technology in data integrity and auditability
- Reinforce the auditor's role in safeguarding federal funds and performance accountability