COURSE SYLLABUS

Government Contract Law Course (Self-Paced)

Learn the legal foundations of government contracting through analysis of key laws, regulations, and case examples related to procurement, performance, and disputes.

> 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/government-contract-law-course-self-paced



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Course Outline

Module 1: The Uniqueness of the Government as a Contractor

- Explains how government contracting differs from private-sector contracting
- Outlines sovereign powers, public policy requirements, and statutory mandates
- Describes the role of public interest in shaping contract law

Module 2: Contract Formation Principles

- Defines the legal elements of contract formation
- Explains offer, acceptance, and consideration in the federal context
- Identifies essential elements required for enforceable agreements

Module 3: Authority of Government Agents

- Clarifies who can legally bind the government in contract matters
- Defines actual vs. apparent authority in acquisition
- Discusses consequences of unauthorized commitments

Module 4: The Statutory and Regulatory Framework

- Introduces foundational acquisition statutes and regulations
- Explains the roles of FAR, DFARS, and agency supplements
- Outlines statutory limitations on contracting authority

Module 5: Miscellaneous Acquisition Procedures

- Describes simplified acquisition and commercial item procedures
- Explains purchase cards and micropurchase thresholds
- Introduces interagency agreements and special acquisitions

Module 6: Sealed Bidding and Common Acquisition Issues

- Explains the sealed bidding process under the FAR

- Details bid submission, evaluation, and award
- Covers bid mistakes, protests, and rejection rules

Module 7: Responsibility, Suspension, Debarment

- Defines contractor responsibility and pre-award clearance
- Outlines grounds for suspension and debarment
- Discusses impact of exclusions on procurement eligibility

Module 8: Competitive Proposals and Negotiation

- Explores negotiated procurement and source selection
- Explains evaluation factors and best-value tradeoffs
- Describes discussions, revisions, and final award decisions

Module 9: Types of Contracts

- Introduces fixed-price, cost-reimbursement, and other contract types
- Outlines risk allocation and appropriate use of each type
- Explains contract selection considerations under the FAR

Module 10: Socioeconomic Considerations

- Discusses statutory programs supporting small and disadvantaged businesses
- Explains set-aside policies and socioeconomic evaluation factors
- Highlights legal obligations for inclusion and compliance

Module 11: Subcontracting

- Outlines rules for prime-subcontractor relationships
- Explains flow-down clauses and responsibility tracking
- Describes subcontracting plans and reporting requirements

Module 12: Contract Administration

- Details post-award roles and responsibilities
- Explains contract performance oversight and modifications
- Describes invoice review, acceptance, and payment issues

Module 13: Disputes and Remedies

- Explores the Contract Disputes Act and claims process
- Details remedies for breach, nonperformance, and default
- Covers appeal rights, boards of contract appeals, and litigation