Assessing Controls in Performance Audits Course

Learn to assess internal controls and identify risks in performance audits using practical techniques and real-world case studies.

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/assessing-controls-in-performance-audits

CustomerRelations@graduateschool.edu •
(888) 744-4723

Course Outline

Module 1: Importance of Internal Controls

- Understand the definition, purpose, and types of internal controls.
- Explore the relationship between controls, processes, and performance outcomes.
- Analyze internal control components as defined in GAO's Green Book.
- Distinguish between preventive, detective, and corrective controls.
- Identify inherent risks and control objectives in program operations.

Module 2: Government Standards for Implementing and Auditing Controls

- Apply GAGAS (Government Auditing Standards) for assessing controls.
- Determine when to evaluate internal controls during audits.
- Understand when controls are or are not significant to audit objectives.
- Review standards related to information system controls.

Module 3: Integrating Assessment of Controls in the Survey Phase

- Define the purposes of the survey phase in performance audits.
- Identify common survey information needs and how to obtain them.
- Use risk assessment to select controls for further audit.
- Evaluate both mission-specific and generic risks.

Module 4: Planning Audits to Assess Controls

- Distinguish between performance audit approaches (e.g., accomplishments vs. processes).
- Formulate audit objectives targeting internal controls.
- Select scope, methodology, and data collection strategies.
- Use audit design matrices to document audit plans effectively.

Module 5: Documenting Controls

- Explore two key documentation methods: narrative description and flowcharting.
- Create flowcharts and process maps to visualize control structures.
- Understand how documentation supports control evaluation.

Module 6: Reporting Control Findings

- Organize findings using the standard elements: condition, cause, effect, and recommendation.
- Link audit results directly to objectives and control assessments.
- Apply reporting standards and formats to communicate control deficiencies.
- Develop realistic, actionable recommendations based on audit findings.

Module 7: Case Exercise

- Apply all learned concepts in a comprehensive case scenario.
- Identify mission-specific and integrity risks in real-world audit situations.
- Evaluate internal control effectiveness and formulate audit findings.