Assessing Risk: Ensuring Internal Audit’s Value

About This Course

Course Description
This course provides practical insights related to contemporary best practices of risk assessment activities and allows you to apply what you learn in order to implement risk assessment activities at your own organization. This training takes a deep dive into the fundamentals of risk assessment; nuances such as audit universe, risk appetite, and fraud; and the challenges of implementation. It also addresses skill gaps many internal auditors struggle with, such as how to develop risk assessment frameworks and how to select or construct a risk ranking system.

After reviewing real examples of risk assessment models used by leading internal audit functions, participants will have the opportunity to develop their own risk assessment frameworks by picking and choosing those elements and best practices that best meet the risk assessment needs of their organization, no matter the size or maturity level of their internal audit function.

Course Objectives
- Recognize patterns of change in an organization.
- Recognize types and categories of risk.
- Explain the strategic influences on risk assessment.
- Identify internal audit’s role in risk management and risk assessment with its key stakeholders.
- Contrast various control framework risk assessment criteria.
- Identify your organization’s risk-centric maturity level.
- Assess how your organization’s risk management maturity level will impact your internal audit risk assessment approach.
- Identify auditable units to include in the audit universe.
- Identify the objectives of the audit universe risk assessment.
- Analyze examples of audit universe risk assessment methodologies.
- Identify the objectives of the engagement risk assessment.
- Analyze examples of engagement risk assessment methodologies.
- Discuss communication of risk assessment results to various stakeholders.
- Identify the objectives of the fraud risk assessment.
- Identify potential fraud schemes.
- Define risk appetite.
- Contrast various risk appetite and risk tolerance viewpoints.
- Identify common implementation challenges.
Course Topics

Nature of Risk
- Explain the fundamental nature of risk.
- Recognize patterns of change in an organization.
- List potential changes that could impact organizational opportunities and threats.
- Recognize types and categories of risk.
- Explain the strategic influences on risk assessment.

Risk Assessment Essentials
- Identify the essential building blocks of a risk assessment.
- Clarify internal audit’s role in risk management and risk assessment with its key stakeholders.
- Contrast various control framework risk assessment criteria.
- Utilize a common vocabulary for discussing risk assessment activities.
- List the common risk assessment activities in which internal audit functions have engaged historically.

Contemporary Risk Assessment Trends
- Discuss contemporary trends relating to risk concerns of internal audit stakeholders.
- Trace the history of events and regulatory influences on stakeholder perceptions and expectations concerning the role of the internal audit function.
- Describe the diversity of stakeholder needs for partnership in risk assessment activities (past and present).
- Recognize how legislation and regulatory activity have created opportunities for internal audit to engage differently with stakeholders (in regard to risk assessment activities).
- Identify your organization’s risk-centric management maturity level.
- Assess how your organization’s risk management maturity level will impact your internal audit risk assessment approach.
- Identify internal audit trends in regard to the risk focus continuum.
- Discuss the results from The IIA Research Foundations’ 2010 Common Body of Knowledge (2010) that relate to risk management and risk assessment.

The Audit Universe
- Assess the completeness of the audit universe.
- Identify auditable units to include in the audit universe.
- Create an audit universe.
- Validate the completeness of the audit universe.
Audit Universe Risk Assessment

- Develop a risk assessment methodology for assessing the audit universe.
- Identify the objectives of the audit universe risk assessment.
- Analyze examples of audit universe risk assessment methodologies.
- Determine the factors that influence the level of sophistication needed for the risk assessment methodology.
- Outline the audit universe risk assessment activities.
- Examine techniques for risk identification and measurement.
- Choose a method for prioritizing risk assessment results.
- Discuss communication of risk assessment results with various stakeholders.

Engagement Risk Assessment

- Develop a risk assessment framework for engagement planning.
- Identify the objectives of the engagement risk assessment.
- Analyze examples of engagement risk assessment methodologies.
- Determine the factors that influence the level of sophistication needed for the risk assessment methodology.
- Outline the engagement risk assessment activities.
- Examine techniques for risk identification and measurement.
- Choose a method for prioritizing risk assessment results.
- Discuss communication of risk assessment results with various stakeholders.

Fraud Risk Assessment

- Perform a fraud risk assessment.
- Identify the objectives of the fraud risk assessment.
- Identify potential fraud schemes.
- Prioritize potential fraud schemes based on risk.
- Discuss communication of risk assessment results to various stakeholders.

Risk Appetite

- Integrate risk appetite into the risk assessment framework.
- Define risk appetite.
- Contrast various risk appetite and risk tolerance viewpoints.

Risk Assessment Implementation Challenges

- Minimize risk assessment implementation issues.
- Contrast the advantages and disadvantages of various risk assessment models.
- Identify solutions to common implementation issues.
Course Closing

- Apply newly learned concepts, techniques, and skills to the work place.
- Restate major concepts, techniques, and skills learned during the course.
- Develop an action plan to apply select concepts, techniques, and skills.
- Identify additional resources to help stay current on issues related to assessing risk.

Course Information

Course Duration: 2 Days

CPE Hours Available: 16

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Field of Study: Auditing

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of common risk frameworks such as COSO ERM and at least two years’ experience in internal auditing or completion of Enterprise Risk Management: A Driver for Organizational Success course.

Advance Preparation: None

Delivery Format: eLearning (Group-Internet-Based); On-site Training (Group-Live); Seminar (Group-Live)