Integrated GRC, Audit, and Control Systems Training Course

Ref: #GRC9116

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's complex and highly regulated business environment, a siloed approach to governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) is no longer sufficient. This course provides a comprehensive, integrated framework for professionals seeking to master the interplay between internal audit and control systems within a robust GRC structure. We delve into the core principles that underpin effective corporate governance, drawing on foundational concepts outlined in frameworks like the COSO "Internal Control – Integrated Framework". Participants will move beyond theoretical knowledge to gain practical skills in designing, implementing, and evaluating control systems that mitigate risk and ensure compliance. The curriculum, expertly designed by BIG BEN Training Center, explores how a strategic internal audit function can serve as a cornerstone for organizational integrity and resilience. We will examine the perspectives of leading thinkers in the field, such as Richard F. Chambers, on the evolving role of the internal auditor as a trusted advisor. This training is engineered to equip you with the tools to build and sustain a cohesive GRC ecosystem, transforming your audit and control functions from a cost center into a strategic value-driver for the entire organization.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal Auditors at all levels.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- GRC Professionals and Analysts.
- Finance Managers and Controllers.
- IT Auditors and Security Professionals.
- Members of Audit Committees.
- Operational Managers with control responsibilities.
- Legal and Corporate Governance Professionals.
- External Auditors seeking to understand internal processes.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Insurance and Investment Management.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Supply Chain.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Telecommunications and Technology.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Governmental Agencies and Public Sector Entities.
- Non-Profit Organizations.
- Consulting and Professional Services Firms.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Compliance Department.
- Finance and Accounting Department.
- Information Technology (IT) and Cybersecurity.
- Legal and Corporate Secretariat.
- Operations Management.
- Procurement and Vendor Management.
- Human Resources.
- Strategy and Corporate Planning.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the integrated GRC framework.
- Apply the COSO framework to design and evaluate internal control systems.
- Master risk-based internal audit planning and execution methodologies.
- Identify and assess key business, operational, financial, and compliance risks.
- Conduct effective control testing and document audit evidence appropriately.
- Analyze the role of IT General Controls (ITGCs) in the overall control environment.
- Communicate audit findings and recommendations clearly to management and the board.
- Enhance the internal audit function's role as a strategic partner in the organization.
- Implement principles of continuous auditing and monitoring.
- Navigate the complexities of regulatory compliance and corporate governance standards.

Course Methodology:

This training course employs a dynamic and interactive learning methodology designed for maximum knowledge retention and practical application. At BIG BEN Training Center, we believe that adult learning is most effective when it is engaging and directly relevant to the participant's professional challenges. The program is built around a blend of expert-led presentations, real-world case study analyses, and collaborative group workshops. Participants will not just listen to theory; they will actively engage in exercises that simulate the process of risk assessment, control design, and audit testing. Interactive sessions, Q&A panels, and peer-to-peer discussions will be used extensively to encourage the sharing of experiences and diverse perspectives. Role-playing scenarios, such as presenting audit findings to an audit committee, will provide a safe environment to practice and refine critical communication skills. Continuous feedback from the instructor will ensure that participants can immediately apply the learned concepts and techniques to their own organizational context, making this a truly transformative learning experience.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Integrated GRC and Internal Controls

- The Three Pillars: Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) Defined.
- Understanding the Three Lines of Defense Model.
- Introduction to the COSO Internal Control – Integrated Framework.
- The Five Components of the COSO Framework.
- Principles of Effective Corporate Governance.
- The Role and Responsibilities of the Audit Committee.
- Key Regulations and Standards (e.g., Sarbanes-Oxley Act).

Unit Two: The Internal Audit Function within the GRC Ecosystem

- International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (IIA Standards).
- Developing a Strategic, Risk-Based Internal Audit Plan.
- Scoping and Planning the Audit Engagement.
- Risk Assessment Methodologies and Techniques.
- Understanding Inherent, Control, and Residual Risk.
- The Internal Audit Charter and Organizational Independence.
- Ethical Considerations and Professional Skepticism for Auditors.

Unit Three: Designing, Documenting, and Testing Internal Controls

- Types of Internal Controls: Preventive, Detective, and Corrective.
- Control Design and Implementation Best Practices.
- Techniques for Documenting Controls (Narratives, Flowcharts).
- Developing a Control Testing Strategy.
- Methods of Testing: Inquiry, Observation, Inspection, and Re-performance.
- Statistical and Non-Statistical Sampling for Audit Testing.
- Evaluating and Concluding on Control Effectiveness.

Unit Four: Advanced Audit Topics and GRC Technology

- Introduction to IT General Controls (ITGCs) and Application Controls.
- Auditing for Fraud: The Fraud Triangle and Red Flags.
- Conducting Operational and Performance Audits.
- Integrating Data Analytics into the Audit Process.
- Overview of GRC Software and Technology Solutions.
- Auditing Third-Party and Vendor Relationships.
- Control Self-Assessment (CSA) Programs and Implementation.

Unit Five: Audit Reporting, Communication, and Continuous Improvement

- Crafting Effective Audit Reports with Actionable Recommendations.
- The Five Cs of Audit Reporting: Criteria, Condition, Cause, Consequence, and Corrective Action.
- Communicating Findings to Senior Management and the Board.
- Techniques for Effective Negotiation and Persuasion.
- Following Up on Audit Recommendations and Management Action Plans.
- Introduction to Continuous Auditing and Monitoring Concepts.
- The Future of Internal Audit: AI, Automation, and ESG Reporting.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As organizations increasingly rely on AI and automation for GRC processes, how can internal audit adapt its methodologies to effectively assess and provide assurance over algorithmic decision-making and automated controls?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by championing a truly integrated approach to GRC, audit, and controls, moving beyond the traditional, siloed training programs. While other courses may focus on a single discipline, our curriculum is meticulously designed to demonstrate the symbiotic relationship between these functions, reflecting the reality of modern corporate governance. The emphasis is placed squarely on practical application and strategic thinking, not just theoretical knowledge or compliance checklists. We utilize a case-study-driven methodology that immerses participants in complex, real-world scenarios, compelling them to analyze, strategize, and formulate solutions as they would in their own organizations. Furthermore, the content is forward-looking, addressing emerging challenges and opportunities such as the audit of AI-driven systems, data analytics integration, and the growing importance of ESG assurance. Participants will leave not only with a mastery of foundational frameworks like COSO and IIA standards but also with a strategic mindset, equipped to elevate their function from a compliance necessity to a vital contributor to organizational value and resilience.