COURSE SYLLABUS

Analysis Techniques for Auditors Course

Learn to apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques to assess performance, risks, and compliance in audits.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/analysis-techniques-for-auditors



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Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to the Course

- Review the purpose of analytical techniques in audit engagements
- Identify criteria for selecting appropriate analysis tools
- Understand the audit context where visual analysis can improve findings

Module 2: Run Chart Analysis

- Create and interpret run charts for time-series data
- Identify patterns, shifts, and trends in performance over time
- Distinguish between common and special cause variation

Module 3: Control Chart Analysis

- Apply statistical control chart techniques to audit data
- Evaluate process stability and detect out-of-control conditions
- Use upper and lower control limits in risk assessment

Module 4: Radar Chart

- Visualize multidimensional performance or criteria
- Compare multiple data sets on a common scale
- Apply radar charts in benchmarking and internal control reviews

Module 5: Histogram

- Display frequency distributions to examine variation and central tendency
- Evaluate data skewness and detect unusual patterns
- Use histograms for compliance and quality control analysis

Module 6: Cause and Effect Diagram

- Construct fishbone diagrams to identify root causes of audit issues
- Organize contributing factors by category
- Use diagrams to guide further audit testing and inquiry

Module 7: Pareto Analysis

- Apply the 80/20 rule to audit findings and exceptions
- Identify key issues or causes driving most observed problems
- Prioritize audit responses based on frequency and impact

Module 8: Scatter Diagram

- Explore correlations between two data variables
- Detect possible cause-effect relationships for deeper analysis
- Support audit conclusions with visual evidence

Module 9: Sequence Flow Chart

- Map audit processes or operations visually
- Identify process inefficiencies, delays, or risk points
- Use for understanding procedures before designing tests

Module 10: Force Field Analysis

- Assess driving and restraining forces affecting a proposed change
- Use in organizational audits and change readiness evaluations
- Facilitate audit recommendations with stakeholder context

Module 11: Cost and Benefit Analysis

- Compare program or project costs to measured benefits
- Support economic conclusions in performance audits
- Apply return on investment (ROI) and break-even analysis

Module 12: Selecting Analysis Techniques

- Match audit objectives to the most appropriate analysis method
- Review strengths and limitations of each visual technique
- Integrate multiple tools to improve audit insight and communication