COURSE SYLLABUS

Creative and Critical Thinking for Auditors Course

Enhance your auditing skills by mastering creative and critical thinking techniques to identify root causes and innovative solutions.

> Group classes (Washington, DC) and onsite training are available for this course.
> For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/creative-and-critical-thinking-for-auditors



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Course Outline

Module 1: Creative Thinking

- Understand the importance of creative thinking in audit problem-solving
- Identify and overcome common roadblocks to creativity
- Recognize the impact of culture and groupthink on creativity
- Explore techniques to generate new ideas and challenge assumptions

Module 2: Creative and Critical Thinking for Problem Solving

- Distinguish between creative and critical thinking in audits
- Define problems using audit-related performance gaps
- Apply structured steps for identifying, analyzing, and solving audit problems
- Align critical and creative thinking throughout the audit lifecycle

Module 3: Applying “Creative” Thinking Tools

- Use tools like SWOT analysis, brainwriting, force field analysis, and PESTLE
- Practice brainstorming, wall writing, and idea quotas for problem exploration
- Generate and document innovative audit solutions through group techniques

Module 4: Applying “Critical” Thinking Tools

- Organize, evaluate, and prioritize creative ideas for audit recommendations
- Use fishbone and spiderweb diagrams to map causes and organize thoughts
- Apply nominal group technique and weighted multivoting for solution ranking

Module 5: Making the Critical Case for Creative Recommendations

- Present audit recommendations using structured, evidence-based formats
- Prepare and deliver a persuasive oral audit presentation to management

- Tailor findings and solutions to stakeholder expectations and organizational culture