

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 in Washington, DC and onsite training is 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