

# Federal Appropriations Law Refresher and Update Course

Get up-to-date on changes to appropriations law, recent GAO decisions, and Antideficiency Act implications.

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course. For more information, email [onsite@graduateschool.edu](mailto:onsite@graduateschool.edu) or visit: <https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/federal-appropriations-law-refresher-and-update>



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## Course Outline

### Module 1: Introduction

- Review the purpose and objectives of federal appropriations law.
- Understand the scope and application of appropriations regulations in federal agencies.
- Introduce key terminology and concepts used in funding law.

### Module 2: Legal Framework

- Examine constitutional provisions, statutes, and case law governing appropriations.
- Identify the roles of Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).
- Understand the hierarchy of legal authority in federal funding decisions.

### Module 3: Availability of Appropriations — Purpose

- Explain the “Purpose Statute” and its role in determining legal expenditure uses.
- Discuss the principles of necessary expense doctrine.
- Review examples of permissible and impermissible use of funds.

### Module 4: Reserved for Future Use

This section is intentionally left blank for future course updates and new guidance.

### Module 5: Availability of Appropriations — Time

- Understand the rules governing the period of availability for federal funds.
- Differentiate between annual, multiple-year, and no-year appropriations.
- Review expiration and cancellation of appropriations.

### Module 6: Availability of Appropriations — Amount

- Examine statutory limitations on the amount of appropriations available.
- Discuss the Anti-Deficiency Act and its implications for agency operations.
- Review reporting and corrective actions for violations.

### **Module 7: Obligation of Appropriations**

- Define “obligation” in the context of federal appropriations law.
- Identify the legal criteria for valid obligations.
- Review common issues and errors in obligating funds.

### **Module 8: Continuing Resolutions**

- Explain the purpose and function of continuing resolutions in maintaining government operations.
- Discuss the limitations and challenges of operating under continuing resolutions.
- Review compliance requirements during temporary funding measures.

### **Module 9: Liability and Relief of Accountable Officers**

- Identify the responsibilities of accountable officers in federal financial management.
- Discuss legal liabilities and potential penalties for misuse of funds.
- Review processes for requesting and obtaining relief from liability.