COURSE SYLLABUS

Federal Contracting: Ethics Compliance and Enforcement Course

Understand procurement ethics laws, conflict-of-interest rules, whistleblower standards, and enforcement mechanisms essential to federal contracts.

> 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/federal-contracting-ethics-compliance-and-enforcement



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Course Outline

Module 1: Principles of Ethical Behavior in Federal Procurement

- Explore the historical evolution of ethical standards in federal procurement.
- Understand definitions and implications of fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Examine the role of Executive Orders and federal statutes on ethics in procurement.
- Learn about kickbacks, bribery laws, and standards of conduct for both government and contractor employees.
- Understand the impact of whistleblower protections and personal/organizational conflicts of interest.

Module 2: Roles of GAO, DOJ, IGs, Office of Government Ethics, OSC, DAEOs, and CCOs

- Understand the audit and bid protest functions of the GAO.
- Review DOJ's civil and criminal enforcement roles in procurement fraud.
- Examine the investigative powers and functions of Inspectors General.
- Study the regulatory and advisory role of the Office of Government Ethics.
- Learn how OSC investigates whistleblower complaints and Hatch Act violations.
- Explore the roles and responsibilities of Designated Agency Ethics Officials and Corporate Compliance Officers.

Module 3: Contractor Responsibility—Debarment and Suspension

- Define "responsible contractor" and understand FAR Part 9 requirements.
- Understand the causes, procedures, and consequences of debarment and suspension.
- Review tools like SAM, CPARS, PPIRS, and FAPIIS for evaluating contractor responsibility.
- Examine due process rights for contractors and subcontractor flowdown clauses.
- Study the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines related to corporate ethics compliance programs.

Module 4: The False Claims Act Whistleblower Provisions and Other Statutes

- Understand the Civil and Criminal False Claims Act and its qui tam provisions.
- Learn about whistleblower protections and enforcement actions under FAR 3.9.

- Review other statutes related to bribery, illegal gratuities, and financial conflicts of interest.
- Examine timelines for bringing whistleblower actions and protections against reprisal.

Module 5: Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions on Information

- Distinguish between personal and organizational conflicts of interest (PCI/OCI).
- Study FAR Subpart 3.1 and 9.5 standards on ethical conduct and conflict mitigation.
- Understand the Procurement Integrity Act and the rules around obtaining/disclosing source selection info.
- Learn about revolving door issues and post-employment restrictions under 18 U.S.C. §§ 207–209.
- Explore real-life enforcement cases related to violations of federal ethics standards.

Module 6: Contractor Performance Information and Other Databases

- Understand how contractor performance is tracked through CPARS and PPIRS.
- Explore the use of FAPIIS for integrity and performance-based decisions.
- Review the role of SAM, FPDS, and Performance.gov in procurement transparency.
- Understand reporting requirements for executive compensation and subcontract awards.
- Learn about default termination reporting and use of contractor report cards in award decisions.

Module 7: FAR Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct Rule

- Understand FAR Subpart 3.10 requirements for contractor ethics programs.
- Review mandatory disclosure rules for reporting credible evidence of wrongdoing.
- Explore the implications of non-disclosure, including suspension and debarment.
- Examine the required elements of an effective compliance program and internal controls.
- Learn how ethics rules apply to subcontracts and non-U.S. performed contracts.