MERCURY

Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills

8 – 12 March 2027
Paris (France)



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Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills

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Introduction

The Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills course builds the knowledge needed to recognize, assess, and address fraud risks in financial accounting activities. It examines how fraudulent transactions, financial statement manipulation, asset misappropriation, and control weaknesses can affect reporting accuracy and organizational performance. Participants explore fraud risk factors, behavioral indicators, accounting anomalies, and internal control principles that support early detection. The program develops structured approaches to financial statement analysis, transaction review, evidence evaluation, and fraud risk assessment. It emphasizes prevention through effective controls, ethical accountability, segregation of duties, monitoring, and timely responses to suspected irregularities. It strengthens participants' ability to protect financial information, improve control effectiveness, and support reliable decision-making.

Targeted Groups

This Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Financial accountants responsible for accurate reporting.
- Internal auditors reviewing financial controls.
- Finance officers monitoring unusual transactions.
- Compliance professionals assessing financial integrity.
- Risk specialists evaluating fraud exposure.
- Accounting supervisors overseeing approvals and reconciliations.
- Forensic accounting professionals strengthening investigative skills.
- Managers responsible for financial governance and fraud prevention.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills course:

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- Explain the nature, causes, and consequences of financial fraud.
- Identify common fraud schemes affecting accounting and reporting.
- Recognize fraud risk factors, behavioral indicators, and transaction red flags.
- Assess fraud exposure across key accounting processes.
- Analyze financial statements for unusual trends and indicators of manipulation.
- Examine journal entries, reconciliations, estimates, and documentation for anomalies.
- Evaluate internal controls that prevent and detect fraudulent activity.
- Apply segregation of duties and authorization principles.
- Interpret analytical patterns indicating suspicious financial activity.
- Distinguish errors, irregularities, and deliberate fraud.
- Assess evidence quality and maintain review documentation.
- Develop structured responses to suspected accounting fraud.
- Recommend corrective actions that strengthen financial reporting integrity.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills program:

- Fraud risk identification and classification.
- Financial statement fraud analysis.
- Transaction anomaly recognition.
- Accounting red flag interpretation.
- Internal control evaluation.
- Fraud risk assessment.
- Journal entry review.
- Evidence-based financial analysis.
- Reconciliation and exception review.
- Fraud response planning.
- Preventive and detective control design.
- Professional documentation and reporting.

Real-world Case Studies

In this Fraud Detection & Prevention for Financial Accounting Skills training, participants develop skills through the following cases:

- Revenue inflation case involving premature recognition and unusual entries.
- Expense manipulation case involving unsupported invoices and duplicate payments.
- Payroll fraud case involving fictitious employees and irregular changes.
- Procurement fraud case involving conflicts of interest and weak approvals.
- Financial statement case involving concealed liabilities and aggressive estimates.

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Course Content

Unit 1: Foundations of Financial Fraud

- Define fraud in accounting and reporting.
- Distinguish fraud from accounting errors.
- Examine common financial fraud schemes.
- Explore asset misappropriation risks.
- Examine fraudulent financial reporting.
- Review corruption and conflict-of-interest risks.
- Analyze the fraud triangle.
- Identify organizational fraud risk factors.

Unit 2: Fraud Risk and Accounting Red Flags

- Identify fraud risks across accounting cycles.
- Examine revenue recognition risks.
- Review expense and procurement fraud indicators.
- Analyze payroll and employee fraud risks.
- Examine cash and payment vulnerabilities.
- Identify suspicious journal entries.
- Recognize unusual account movements.
- Assess behavioral fraud warning signs.

Unit 3: Financial Analysis and Fraud Detection

- Analyze financial statements for anomalies.
- Compare historical financial performance.
- Review horizontal and vertical analysis.
- Examine unusual financial ratios.
- Identify abnormal revenue and expense patterns.
- Analyze receivables, inventory, and cash.
- Review unusual journal entries.
- Apply analytical fraud detection techniques.

Unit 4: Internal Controls and Fraud Prevention

- Explain internal controls for fraud prevention.
- Assess accounting control design.
- Examine segregation of duties.
- Review authorization and approval controls.
- Evaluate reconciliations and supervisory checks.
- Examine preventive and detective controls.
- Assess control gaps and vulnerabilities.
- Strengthen monitoring and exception reporting.

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Unit 5: Fraud Response, Investigation, and Remediation

- Establish responses to suspected fraud.
- Define preliminary fraud assessment objectives.
- Evaluate financial and documentary evidence.
- Maintain investigation records and audit trails.
- Analyze suspected fraud schemes systematically.
- Assess findings against accounting controls.
- Develop fraud remediation actions.
- Improve continuous fraud monitoring.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

Effective fraud detection combines financial accounting knowledge, analytical judgment, internal control evaluation, and systematic assessment of fraud risks. Strong prevention depends on identifying vulnerabilities early, strengthening controls, evaluating evidence carefully, and maintaining continuous oversight of financial reporting activities.