MERCURY

Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills

18 – 22 October 2027
Rome (Italy)



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Introduction

The Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills course provides professionals with advanced knowledge of forensic auditing principles, fraud examination techniques, and investigative approaches for identifying financial misconduct. It explores the strategic role of forensic audits in strengthening internal controls, improving risk management, and supporting organizational integrity. Participants examine fraud detection methodologies, evidence analysis practices, investigative planning, and reporting techniques required for effective fraud investigations. The program focuses on understanding fraud risks, analyzing suspicious transactions, and applying structured approaches to uncover financial irregularities. It develops professional capabilities in conducting forensic reviews, evaluating control weaknesses, and supporting decision-making through reliable investigative findings.

Targeted Groups

This Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Internal auditors are improving fraud investigation capabilities.
- External auditors are strengthening forensic audit expertise.
- Compliance officers managing financial crime risks.
- Risk managers are evaluating fraud exposure.
- Accountants are analyzing financial irregularities.
- Investigators conducting fraud examinations.
- Managers are enhancing governance and control systems.
- Finance professionals are developing fraud prevention skills.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills course:

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- Understand the principles of forensic auditing and fraud investigation processes.
- Identify common fraud schemes affecting organizations and financial operations.
- Analyze fraud risks using structured assessment approaches.
- Apply investigative techniques to examine suspicious activities.
- Evaluate internal controls and detect control weaknesses.
- Understand evidence collection and documentation requirements.
- Develop skills for analyzing financial records and transactions.
- Interpret investigation findings through professional reporting methods.
- Recognize the role of governance in fraud prevention.
- Improve decision-making through forensic analysis insights.
- Understand ethical responsibilities during fraud investigations.
- Apply strategic approaches to strengthen organizational fraud controls.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills program:

- Ability to conduct structured forensic audit reviews.
- Skills in identifying fraud indicators and warning signs.
- Capability to analyze complex financial information.
- Understanding of fraud risk assessment methods.
- Ability to evaluate internal control effectiveness.
- Skills in evidence examination and investigation planning.
- Competence in preparing professional investigation reports.
- Knowledge of forensic audit procedures and practices.
- Ability to support fraud prevention strategies.

Studying Scenarios

In this Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills training, participants develop skills through the following scenarios:

- Reviewing financial records to identify unusual transaction patterns.
- Examining workplace fraud cases involving control failures.
- Analyzing procurement fraud risks and investigation approaches.
- Evaluating evidence from suspected financial misconduct cases.
- Developing investigation plans for organizational fraud incidents.
- Assessing reporting methods for forensic audit findings.

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Course Content

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Strategic Forensic Audit and Fraud Investigation

- Understanding the concept and purpose of forensic auditing in modern organizations.
- Exploring the relationship between forensic audits, fraud detection, and financial investigations.
- Examining the evolution of forensic accounting practices and investigative methods.
- Understanding the role of forensic auditors in identifying financial misconduct.
- Studying the differences between traditional auditing and forensic audit approaches.
- Exploring the importance of professional judgment during forensic investigations.
- Understanding how forensic audit supports governance, transparency, and accountability.
- Examining the strategic value of fraud investigation in organizational decision-making.

Unit 2: Fraud Risk Assessment and Detection Techniques

- Understanding the fundamentals of fraud risk management frameworks.
- Identifying common types of occupational fraud and financial manipulation.
- Examining fraud schemes involving assets, revenue, expenses, and reporting.
- Understanding fraud indicators and behavioral warning signs.
- Applying analytical approaches to detect suspicious financial activities.
- Exploring transaction analysis techniques for fraud detection.
- Understanding the importance of data review in identifying irregular patterns.
- Evaluating weaknesses that create opportunities for fraudulent activities.
- Examining preventive measures that reduce organizational fraud exposure.

Unit 3: Forensic Investigation Procedures and Evidence Analysis

- Understanding the stages of planning and conducting fraud investigations.
- Developing investigation strategies based on identified risks and objectives.
- Examining methods for collecting and preserving investigative evidence.
- Understanding documentation requirements for forensic audit procedures.
- Analyzing financial records, reports, and supporting documentation.
- Exploring techniques for tracing transactions and identifying hidden activities.
- Understanding interview approaches used during fraud investigations.
- Evaluating the importance of confidentiality and professional ethics.
- Examining methods for organizing investigation findings effectively.

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Unit 4: Internal Controls, Governance, and Fraud Prevention Strategies

- Understanding the connection between internal controls and fraud prevention.
- Evaluating control systems designed to reduce fraud opportunities.
- Examining governance practices that support ethical organizational environments.
- Identifying control gaps through forensic audit assessments.
- Understanding compliance requirements related to fraud prevention.
- Exploring risk-based approaches for improving control effectiveness.
- Examining management responsibilities in preventing financial misconduct.
- Developing strategies to strengthen accountability and transparency.
- Understanding continuous monitoring approaches for fraud risk reduction.

Unit 5: Advanced Fraud Investigation Reporting and Strategic Applications

- Understanding the structure of professional forensic audit reports.
- Developing clear investigation findings based on analyzed evidence.
- Examining methods for presenting fraud investigation results to stakeholders.
- Understanding how forensic findings support strategic business decisions.
- Exploring advanced approaches for fraud risk mitigation planning.
- Evaluating investigation outcomes and organizational improvement opportunities.
- Understanding the role of technology in modern fraud examination.
- Examining future trends in forensic auditing and fraud prevention.
- Applying strategic thinking to enhance organizational fraud resilience.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

The Strategic Forensic Audit & Fraud Investigation Skills course equips professionals with the knowledge required to analyze fraud risks, conduct forensic reviews, and support effective investigative decisions. Participants gain a comprehensive understanding of forensic audit practices, fraud detection techniques, and strategic approaches that strengthen organizational integrity and financial control systems.