Fraud Detection & Prevention for Finance Leadership

04 - 08 Jan 2027
Rome (Italy)

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Introduction

Financial fraud can weaken financial reporting, distort business decisions, and expose organizations to significant regulatory and reputational consequences. This Fraud Detection & Prevention for Finance Leadership course examines the principles and practices finance leaders need to detect, prevent, assess, and respond to fraud risks across financial processes. It explores fraud risk management, fraud detection techniques, internal controls, financial statement fraud, asset misappropriation, corruption, and emerging digital risks. Participants examine how finance leadership can strengthen governance, challenge unusual transactions, interpret warning signs, and improve control effectiveness. The program addresses analytical approaches for identifying anomalies, assessing fraud indicators, and supporting evidence-based investigations without compromising professional judgment. It develops an understanding of how finance functions can protect financial integrity and organizational value.

Targeted Groups

This Fraud Detection & Prevention for Finance Leadership training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Finance directors and CFOs overseeing financial integrity and risk.
- Financial controllers managing reporting and control activities.
- Finance managers overseeing transaction cycles and approvals.
- Internal auditors assessing controls and fraud exposure.
- Risk managers evaluating financial and operational fraud risks.
- Compliance professionals monitoring misconduct and regulatory obligations.
- Senior accountants reviewing unusual transactions and reporting anomalies.
- Governance professionals strengthening financial oversight responsibilities.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Fraud Detection & Prevention for Finance Leadership course:

- Define financial fraud, fraud risk, and common fraudulent schemes.
- Distinguish fraud from accounting errors and reporting mistakes.
- Evaluate fraud risks across revenue, purchasing, payroll, cash, and reporting processes.
- Identify behavioral, transactional, and control-based fraud indicators.
- Assess the effectiveness of preventive and detective internal controls.
- Apply fraud risk assessment principles to finance operations.
- Examine financial statement fraud and management override risks.
- Analyze transaction patterns to recognize unusual or suspicious activity.
- Evaluate segregation of duties, authorization, reconciliation, and monitoring controls.
- Develop leadership responses to suspected fraud and control failures.
- Strengthen governance, accountability, ethical conduct, and fraud awareness.
- Integrate continuous monitoring into financial fraud prevention programs.
- Assess fraud risk indicators using structured professional judgment.

- Recommend improvements to weak or ineffective financial controls.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Fraud Detection & Prevention for Finance Leadership program:

- Fraud risk identification and prioritization.
- Financial fraud detection and prevention planning.
- Financial statement fraud analysis.
- Internal control evaluation and control-gap recognition.
- Fraud indicator and red-flag assessment.
- Transaction anomaly and exception analysis.
- Segregation of duties assessment.
- Management override risk evaluation.
- Fraud response and escalation judgment.
- Evidence-based financial review.
- Governance and ethical oversight.
- Continuous fraud monitoring design.
- Leadership communication and decision support.
- Control remediation and prevention planning.
- Fraud governance awareness.
- Risk-based leadership decision-making.

Real-world Case Studies

In this Fraud Detection & Prevention for Finance Leadership training, participants develop skills through the following cases:

- Revenue manipulation case involving premature recognition, unusual sales patterns, and management pressure on reporting targets.
- Procurement fraud case examining conflicts of interest, duplicate vendors, inflated invoices, and weak approval controls.
- Payroll fraud case reviewing ghost employees, unusual payment changes, and inadequate master-data controls.

Course Content

Unit 1: Foundations of Financial Fraud and Finance Leadership

- Define financial fraud and its impact on financial integrity.
- Distinguish fraud from accounting errors and reporting mistakes.
- Examine asset misappropriation, reporting fraud, corruption, and bribery.
- Explore common fraud schemes across financial processes.
- Analyze pressure, opportunity, and rationalization behind fraud.
- Identify management override, collusion, and conflicts of interest.
- Clarify finance leadership responsibilities for fraud management.

Unit 2: Fraud Risk Assessment and Internal Controls

- Identify fraud risks across key financial activities.
- Assess inherent fraud exposure and control effectiveness.

- Evaluate preventive, detective, and corrective controls.
- Examine segregation of duties, approvals, and reconciliations.
- Assess override, access abuse, collusion, and exceptions.
- Identify control gaps that increase fraud opportunities.
- Prioritize fraud risks by likelihood and impact.
- Establish continuous fraud assessment and monitoring practices.

Unit 3: Fraud Detection Techniques and Financial Analytics

- Identify behavioral, transactional, and accounting fraud indicators.
- Examine unusual transactions and unexplained account movements.
- Analyze journal entries for unusual patterns and timing.
- Evaluate duplicate payments, vendors, refunds, and payment anomalies.
- Review financial trends and account fluctuations for anomalies.
- Apply ratio, trend, exception, and comparative analysis.
- Interpret analytics findings using professional skepticism.
- Assess continuous monitoring for suspicious activity.

Unit 4: Financial Statement Fraud and Investigation Principles

- Examine revenue, expense, capitalization, and reserve manipulation.
- Analyze estimates, valuations, disclosures, and classifications.
- Assess unusual journal entries and reporting adjustments.
- Review evidence preservation, documentation, and confidentiality.
- Evaluate allegations using evidence and professional skepticism.
- Examine interviews, escalation, and management responsibilities.
- Assess materiality, disclosure, and reporting consequences.
- Develop structured responses to suspected financial fraud.

Unit 5: Fraud Prevention, Response, and Finance Leadership

- Strengthen fraud prevention through ethical leadership.
- Design fraud awareness and accountability practices.
- Evaluate whistleblowing, escalation, and confidentiality principles.
- Develop responses to suspected fraud and control failures.
- Prioritize remediation after confirmed fraud events.
- Integrate fraud monitoring with governance and internal audit.
- Measure controls through exceptions and remediation progress.
- Build sustainable practices that protect financial integrity.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

Strong fraud prevention combines effective controls, analytics, professional judgment, and ethical leadership. Finance leaders can strengthen financial integrity, manage fraud risks, and support reliable decision-making.

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