

Building Equity into Performance Audits (4 hours)

Overview

The 2021 Technical Revision to the 2018 Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book) introduced “equity” as a concept for auditors to consider when conducting audits. This is an important concept given societal changes and increased knowledge about and program accountability for diversity and inclusion-related issues. However, auditors need support for interpreting the Yellow Book requirements and identifying implications for planning and conducting their audits, interpreting results, and appropriately communicating audit findings. Through a combination of instructor presentations and interactive class exercises, this course seeks to help auditors better understand what equity means in the auditing context and what strategies they might use to build equity into their performance audits.

Who Should Attend

This course is designed to help auditors understand the 2021 Yellow Book technical revision that added equity as a concept for auditors to review in their work. As a result, both new and seasoned auditors will benefit from the material.

CPEs: 4

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, participants should be able to understand

- How equity is defined in the audit setting
- Where equity issues might come from
- How to formulate audit questions to address equity
- How to think through potential sources of criteria and data to assess equity and potential analysis approaches
- How to appropriately report results

Course Topics

Introduction and Overview

- Discussion of equity vs. equality
- Equality as an audit objective per the 2021 Yellow Book technical revision
- Sources of equity-related audit questions
- Role of critical thinking and team self-assessment

Planning an Equity-Related Audit

- Review of key audit planning steps
- Planning considerations for equity-related audits
 - Criteria
 - Condition and potential tools that may help
 - Cause and potential tools that may help
 - Effect

Collecting and Analyzing Evidence and Reporting Results for an Equity-Related Audit

- Review of typical data collection methodologies
- Data collection considerations for equity-related audits
- Data analysis considerations for equity-related audits
 - Qualitative data
 - Quantitative data
 - Challenges and potential solutions for equity-related audits
- Reporting audit findings related to equity