



COSO-Based Internal Auditing

Course Introduction:

The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Framework is widely recognized as a cornerstone of effective internal controls, risk management, and governance practices. This 5-day theoretical training course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the COSO Framework and its application to internal auditing. By focusing on the key components of the COSO Internal Control Framework and the principles of risk management, participants will gain the knowledge necessary to enhance internal audit processes, improve organizational governance, and drive continuous improvement.

Throughout the course, attendees will learn how to implement the COSO Framework within their auditing activities, assess the effectiveness of controls, and align internal audit functions with broader organizational objectives. Participants will also explore the role of internal auditing in ensuring the integrity of financial reporting, operational efficiency, and compliance with regulations. By the end of the training, attendees will be able to apply COSO's principles effectively to their internal audit processes, helping their organizations navigate risks and strengthen overall performance.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Provide a detailed understanding of the COSO Internal Control Framework and its relevance to internal auditing.
- Explore the key components of the COSO Framework and their application in risk management and control processes.
- Develop the ability to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls within organizations.
- Learn how to align internal auditing with risk management processes to support organizational objectives.
- Gain insights into best practices for evaluating financial reporting and operational controls within the COSO framework.
- Understand how internal auditing contributes to organizational governance, compliance, and performance improvement.

Who Should Attend?

This course is designed for all:

- Internal Auditors and Audit Managers
- Risk Management Professionals
- Compliance Officers and Governance Specialists
- Financial Auditors and Analysts
- Senior Management and Executives overseeing Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC)
- Those involved in internal control processes and organizational strategy

Course Outline:

Day 1: Introduction to the COSO Framework and Internal Control Concepts

- **Overview of the COSO Framework**
 - Historical development and evolution of the COSO Framework
 - The COSO Cube: A visual representation of internal control
 - The integration of COSO with risk management, governance, and compliance functions
- **Key Concepts of Internal Control**
 - Definition and objectives of internal control systems
 - The role of internal controls in achieving organizational objectives
 - The relationship between internal controls, risk management, and governance
- **The Five Components of COSO Internal Control Framework**
 - Control Environment
 - Risk Assessment
 - Control Activities
 - Information and Communication
 - Monitoring Activities

Day 2: Control Environment and Risk Assessment

- **Control Environment**
 - Leadership's role in establishing a strong control environment
 - Ethical values, corporate culture, and organizational integrity
 - The importance of governance structures and oversight functions

- Impact of management's philosophy and operating style on internal controls
- **Risk Assessment**
 - Identifying and assessing risks that could impact the achievement of objectives
 - The risk assessment process: Establishing risk tolerance, identifying risks, and evaluating risk impacts
 - The role of internal audit in the risk assessment process
 - Using COSO's principles to assess risk across various business functions

Day 3: Control Activities and Information & Communication

- **Control Activities**
 - Understanding control activities in relation to organizational objectives
 - Types of control activities: Preventive, detective, and corrective controls
 - The design and implementation of control activities to mitigate risk
 - Control activities in financial reporting, operational efficiency, and compliance
- **Information and Communication**
 - The importance of timely, accurate, and relevant information
 - The flow of information across the organization: Internal and external communication
 - Ensuring that information systems support decision-making and effective controls
 - The role of internal auditing in monitoring and verifying communication processes

Day 4: Monitoring Activities and Integrating COSO with Risk Management

- **Monitoring Activities**
 - The role of ongoing monitoring and periodic evaluations in internal control systems
 - Techniques for assessing the effectiveness of control systems and processes
 - Continuous monitoring vs. periodic evaluations: Best practices for internal auditing
 - The role of management and internal audit in assessing control performance and making adjustments
- **Integrating COSO Framework with Risk Management**
 - How the COSO framework aligns with enterprise risk management (ERM) principles
 - The relationship between internal control activities and risk management practices
 - Evaluating and mitigating risks across the organization using COSO and ERM frameworks
 - Case studies on risk mitigation and the alignment of COSO with broader organizational strategy

- **Auditing Internal Controls under COSO**
 - The role of internal auditors in evaluating the effectiveness of the control environment
 - Applying COSO principles to audit financial reporting, operational effectiveness, and compliance
 - Techniques for auditing the five components of the COSO framework
 - Best practices for evaluating the adequacy of controls and identifying weaknesses
- **Reporting and Improving Internal Controls**
 - Communicating audit findings to senior management and stakeholders
 - Developing action plans to address control weaknesses and improve organizational effectiveness
 - Using the COSO framework to provide recommendations for enhancing internal controls
 - Continuous improvement strategies: Leveraging audit results to drive governance and control improvements

Course Methodology:

A variety of methodologies will be used during the course that including:

- (30%) Based on Case Studies
- (30%) Techniques
- (30%) Role Play
- (10%) Concepts
- Pre-test and Post-test
- Variety of Learning Methods
- Lectures
- Case Studies and Self Questionnaires
- Group Work
- Discussion
- Presentation

Course Certificate:

International Center for Training & Development (ICTD) will award an internationally recognized certificate(s) for each delegate on completion of training.

Course Fees:

To be advised as per course location. This rate includes participant's manual, Hand-Outs, buffet lunch, coffee/tea on arrival, morning & afternoon of each day.

Course Timings:

Daily Course Timings:

08:00 - 08:20	Morning Coffee / Tea
08:20 - 10:00	First Session
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee / Tea / Snacks
10:20 - 12:20	Second Session
12:20 - 13:30	Lunch Break & Prayer Break
13:30 - 15:00	Last Session

