



The Audit Perspective

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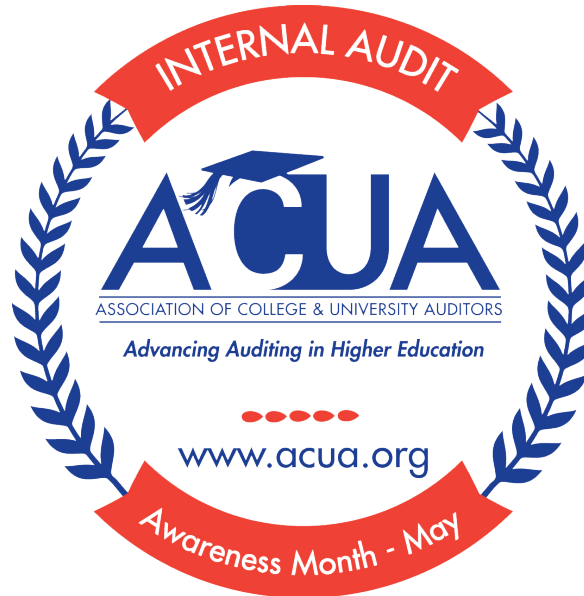
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May is Internal Audit Awareness Month! This month's newsletter will focus on providing you with more information on internal auditing. We hope you find the information in our newsletters useful. If you have any suggestions, questions, or feedback, please contact us at 662-915-7017 or auditing@olemiss.edu.

What is Internal Auditing?

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes. Watch this short video to understand the value of Internal Audit in just 3 minutes: www.acua.org/movie

Benefits of Internal Audit

Internal audit team member(s) provide an independent review of the organization's operations. Reviews offer the opportunity to

internally identify and improve operations before weaknesses are identified by external auditors.

The internal auditors are expected to provide recommendations for improvement in those areas where opportunities or deficiencies are identified. While management is responsible for internal controls, the internal audit activity provides assurance to management and the audit committee that internal controls are effective and working as intended.

An effective internal audit activity is a valuable resource for management and the board or its equivalent, and the audit committee due to its understanding of the organization and its culture, operations, and risk profile. The objectivity, skills, and knowledge of competent internal auditors can significantly add value to an organization's internal control, risk management, and governance processes. Similarly, an effective internal audit activity can provide assurance to other stakeholders such as regulators, employees, providers of finance, and shareholders.

Responsibilities of Internal Audit

- Offer insight and advice
- Evaluate risks
- Assess controls
- Ensure accuracy
- Improve operations
- Promote ethics
- Review processes and procedures
- Monitor compliance
- Assure safeguards
- Investigate fraud
- Communicate results

Effective Internal Auditing

For internal auditing to be effective, the organization's leaders must be open to discussing tough issues and seizing opportunities to make necessary changes for improvement. And the internal auditors must have an independent reporting line to the highest governing body ensuring them the requisite authority to access all areas of the organization and know that they will be supported if and when their views differ from those of management.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who does UM Internal Audit report to?

Our department has a dual reporting responsibility between the Chancellor and the Chief Audit Executive at the IHL.

How are departments selected for an audit?

The audit of most areas (other than special requests/investigations) is based on an annual risk assessment. This assessment includes input from management and staff in identifying risks.

Does Internal Audit get audited?

Yes, Internal Audit is subject to external audit just like any other department on campus.

Where is Internal Audit located?

306E Kinard Hall

Tools on Internal Audit's Website

Several useful tools and information can be found on the [Internal Audit website](#):

- A [Self-Assessment](#)
- Information about the [EthicsPoint Hotline](#)
- [Record Retention Guidelines](#)
- [Information on the Audit Process](#)
- [Information on Account Reconciliation Training](#)
- [Newsletter Archives](#)
- [Request an Audit Form](#)

Training with Internal Audit

Lead Your Team:

A section on the Code of Ethics and Conduct is presented by Internal Audit during the Lead Your Team training sessions. Lead Your Team is a three-day program designed to develop the skills necessary to supervise professionally and effectively. This is a core course highly recommended for employees with supervisory and people management responsibilities. The next Lead Your Team sessions are offered on June 6th, 13th, and 20th. Sign up on the [HR website](#)!

Account Reconciliation:

The Office of Internal Audit offers training on account reconciliation. A session is currently scheduled for June 14th, 2018 from 11:00am- 12:00pm at the Law School, Room 1115. In this class, employees will learn how to perform monthly account reconciliations for revenue and expenditures (including payroll) in order to be compliant with the [Responsibilities of Signatory Officers Policy](#). This class is designed for signatory officers as well as other employees who have been delegated the responsibility for reconciling departmental accounts. To register for upcoming sessions, go to our [website](#).



Lead Responsibly:

A section entitled *Doubt Means Don't: Fiscal Responsibility (Code of Ethics and Conduct)* is presented by Internal Audit during the Lead Responsibly training. Lead Responsibly is designed for new and existing department heads. The review of financial and administrative topics will empower leaders to make accurate judgements and decisions, manage resources effectively, and act with professional integrity. The next session will be held in September. Watch the [HR website](#) for registration to open soon!

Self-Assessment



Self-assessment is a valuable tool to help identify internal control deficiencies and assist in departmental management and audit preparation. The self-assessment consists of a series of “yes” or “no” questions. “Yes” indicates adequate controls in an area, while “no” indicates control deficiencies. Additional control related information is provided below each question to aid in resolving control deficiencies. Links to relevant policies are also included for each section. The self-assessment can be accessed [here](#). For questions not addressed in the self-assessment, please feel free to contact us at 662-915-7017 or auditing@olemiss.edu.