

forensic accounting

forensic accounting is a specialized field within the accounting profession that combines accounting, auditing, and investigative skills to examine financial records for use in legal proceedings. This discipline plays a crucial role in detecting and preventing fraud, resolving disputes, and supporting litigation by providing clear, factual financial analysis. Forensic accountants are often called upon to investigate financial crimes such as embezzlement, money laundering, and securities fraud, as well as to assist in divorce proceedings, bankruptcy cases, and business valuations. The profession requires a deep understanding of accounting principles, legal frameworks, and investigative techniques to uncover discrepancies and present findings in a manner suitable for courts of law. This article explores the key aspects of forensic accounting, including its definition, applications, methodologies, skills required, and the role it plays in various industries. A comprehensive understanding of forensic accounting is essential for businesses, legal professionals, and regulatory agencies to effectively address financial irregularities and ensure transparency.

- What Is Forensic Accounting?
- Applications of Forensic Accounting
- Techniques and Methodologies in Forensic Accounting
- Skills and Qualifications of Forensic Accountants
- The Role of Forensic Accounting in Legal Proceedings
- Challenges Faced in Forensic Accounting

What Is Forensic Accounting?

Forensic accounting is the integration of accounting, auditing, and investigative skills to analyze financial information suitable for use in legal contexts. It involves examining financial documents and transactions to uncover evidence of financial misconduct, fraud, or disputes. Unlike traditional accounting, which focuses on financial reporting and compliance, forensic accounting emphasizes investigative processes and presentation of findings for litigation or dispute resolution. This field serves as a bridge between accounting and the legal system, providing expertise that supports law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and courts.

Definition and Scope

Forensic accounting encompasses various activities such as fraud detection, financial dispute resolution, and expert testimony. It extends beyond routine accounting by scrutinizing financial data to identify irregularities that may indicate criminal activity or financial mismanagement. The scope includes detailed analysis of documents like bank statements, ledgers, contracts, and electronic records to trace the origin and flow of

funds.

Differences from Traditional Accounting

While traditional accounting is focused on preparing and maintaining accurate financial records, forensic accounting is investigative and analytical. Forensic accountants must understand legal standards of evidence and often work under the pressure of deadlines imposed by legal proceedings. Their reports must be clear, concise, and defensible in court, contrasting with the primarily internal focus of standard accounting practices.

Applications of Forensic Accounting

Forensic accounting is applied in a wide range of scenarios where financial discrepancies or disputes arise. Its versatility makes it an indispensable tool in legal and corporate environments. The following key applications demonstrate the breadth of forensic accounting's impact across industries.

Fraud Detection and Prevention

Identifying fraudulent activities is one of the primary roles of forensic accountants. They investigate suspicious transactions, uncover hidden assets, and analyze patterns that indicate deception. Organizations utilize forensic accounting to implement controls that prevent future fraud and to respond effectively when fraud occurs.

Litigation Support

Forensic accountants assist attorneys by preparing financial evidence, quantifying economic damages, and providing expert testimony during trials. Their expertise helps clarify complex financial matters, making it easier for judges and juries to understand the issues at hand. This support is vital in cases involving contract disputes, business valuations, and insurance claims.

Divorce and Family Law Cases

In family law, forensic accountants evaluate financial data to ensure equitable distribution of assets, detect undisclosed income, and assess the value of businesses or property. They provide impartial financial analysis that assists courts in making informed decisions regarding alimony, child support, and asset division.

Bankruptcy and Insolvency Investigations

When companies face financial distress, forensic accountants investigate the circumstances leading to bankruptcy. They identify fraudulent conveyances, asset misappropriation, and other financial irregularities that impact creditor claims and recovery efforts.

Techniques and Methodologies in Forensic Accounting

Forensic accounting employs a variety of specialized techniques to detect, analyze, and document financial irregularities. These methodologies are designed to uncover hidden information and provide a clear audit trail for legal scrutiny.

Data Analysis and Digital Forensics

Modern forensic accounting relies heavily on data analytics and digital forensics to examine electronic financial records. Techniques such as data mining, trend analysis, and transaction testing help identify anomalies and suspicious patterns in large volumes of data.

Tracing and Reconstructing Financial Transactions

Tracing involves following the flow of funds through various accounts and entities to uncover the origin and destination of money. Reconstruction entails piecing together incomplete or altered financial records to provide an accurate representation of financial activities.

Interviewing and Evidence Gathering

Forensic accountants often conduct interviews with employees, management, and other relevant parties to gather information that supports their investigation. Collecting and preserving evidence in accordance with legal standards is essential for maintaining the integrity of the case.

Report Writing and Presentation

Clear, detailed, and objective reports are critical in forensic accounting. These documents must explain findings in a manner understandable to non-experts and be structured to withstand cross-examination in court.

Skills and Qualifications of Forensic Accountants

Successful forensic accountants possess a unique combination of skills that enable them to conduct thorough investigations and communicate their findings effectively. Education, certifications, and practical experience play significant roles in shaping their expertise.

Educational Background

Most forensic accountants hold degrees in accounting, finance, or related fields. Advanced education, such as a master's degree or specialized courses in forensic accounting and fraud examination, enhances their knowledge and professional capabilities.

Professional Certifications

Certifications like Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Forensic Accountant (Cr.FA), and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with forensic specialization are highly valued. These credentials demonstrate a commitment to ethical standards and proficiency in forensic accounting practices.

Analytical and Investigative Skills

Strong analytical skills enable forensic accountants to identify discrepancies and patterns within complex financial data. Investigative skills, including critical thinking and attention to detail, are essential for uncovering hidden information and understanding the broader context of financial transactions.

Communication and Presentation Skills

Forensic accountants must present technical financial information clearly and persuasively to judges, juries, and attorneys. Effective written and oral communication skills are necessary for preparing reports, delivering testimony, and collaborating with legal professionals.

The Role of Forensic Accounting in Legal Proceedings

Forensic accounting is integral to the legal process when financial evidence is involved. Its role extends from pre-trial investigations to courtroom testimony, providing objective and reliable financial analysis.

Expert Witness Testimony

Forensic accountants frequently serve as expert witnesses, explaining complex financial matters in an understandable manner. Their credibility and ability to withstand cross-examination can significantly influence case outcomes.

Quantification of Economic Damages

In litigation, forensic accountants calculate economic damages resulting from breaches of contract, fraud, or negligence. Accurate quantification is critical for fair compensation and settlement negotiations.

Support for Regulatory Compliance and Investigations

Regulatory agencies rely on forensic accounting to investigate compliance violations and enforce financial laws. Forensic accountants assist in audits, investigations, and enforcement actions by providing detailed financial analysis.

Challenges Faced in Forensic Accounting

Despite its importance, forensic accounting presents several challenges that professionals must navigate to achieve successful outcomes in investigations and legal proceedings.

Complexity of Financial Crimes

Financial crimes are often sophisticated, involving multiple entities, jurisdictions, and layers of transactions. Forensic accountants must unravel complex schemes while maintaining accuracy and objectivity.

Data Accessibility and Integrity

Accessing complete and accurate financial data can be difficult due to intentional concealment, poor record-keeping, or technological barriers. Ensuring data integrity is essential for credible analysis and testimony.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Forensic accountants must operate within legal frameworks and adhere to ethical standards to protect client confidentiality and maintain the validity of their findings. Balancing investigative rigor with legal constraints requires careful judgment.

Time Constraints and Pressure

Investigations often occur under tight deadlines imposed by legal proceedings, requiring forensic accountants to work efficiently without compromising thoroughness or accuracy.

- Understanding forensic accounting is essential for detecting and resolving financial disputes.
- The field applies specialized techniques to uncover and analyze financial fraud.
- Forensic accountants require a blend of accounting knowledge, investigative skills, and legal understanding.
- The profession supports legal processes through expert testimony and evidence presentation.
- Challenges include dealing with complex data, legal constraints, and maintaining ethical standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is forensic accounting and how is it used in fraud investigations?

Forensic accounting involves the use of accounting, auditing, and investigative skills to examine financial statements and records for evidence of fraud, embezzlement, or other financial crimes. It is used in fraud investigations to identify discrepancies, trace illicit transactions, and provide expert testimony in legal proceedings.

What are the essential skills required to become a successful forensic accountant?

A successful forensic accountant needs strong analytical and investigative skills, proficiency in accounting and auditing principles, attention to detail, knowledge of legal procedures, effective communication skills, and familiarity with data analysis tools and software.

How is technology impacting the field of forensic accounting?

Technology is transforming forensic accounting by enabling the use of advanced data analytics, artificial intelligence, and forensic software to detect complex fraud schemes, analyze large datasets quickly, and enhance accuracy and efficiency in investigations.

What industries benefit the most from forensic accounting services?

Industries such as banking and finance, insurance, healthcare, government, and legal sectors benefit significantly from forensic accounting services to detect financial fraud, resolve disputes, comply with regulations, and support litigation.

How does forensic accounting contribute to cybersecurity efforts?

Forensic accounting contributes to cybersecurity by investigating financial aspects of cybercrimes like data breaches, ransomware attacks, and identity theft. Forensic accountants analyze digital financial records to uncover the origin and impact of cyber fraud and support preventive measures.

Additional Resources

1. Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination

This comprehensive guide provides an in-depth look at the principles and practices of forensic accounting. It covers various fraud schemes, techniques for detecting and preventing fraud, and the legal aspects involved. The book is ideal for students and professionals seeking to enhance their understanding of forensic accounting methodologies.

2. Financial Forensics Body of Knowledge

This book serves as a foundational resource for financial forensic professionals, detailing essential concepts, tools, and practices. It explores investigative techniques, valuation methods, and the role of forensic accountants in legal proceedings. It is highly regarded for its practical approach and thorough coverage of the forensic accounting field.

3. Fraud Auditing and Forensic Accounting

Focused on the detection and investigation of financial fraud, this title blends auditing practices with forensic techniques. It offers case studies, analytical procedures, and guidelines for conducting fraud audits. The book is useful for auditors, forensic accountants, and fraud examiners aiming to improve their investigative skills.

4. Corporate Fraud Handbook

This handbook provides insights into corporate fraud schemes, internal controls, and regulatory frameworks. It discusses the implementation of forensic accounting strategies to uncover and address fraudulent activities within organizations. Readers gain practical knowledge on managing fraud risks and conducting thorough investigations.

5. Fraud Examination

A detailed exploration of fraud examination principles, this book covers the identification, investigation, and prevention of fraud. It includes legal considerations and ethical issues faced by forensic accountants. The text is well-suited for both academic study and professional reference.

6. Principles of Forensic Accounting

This book introduces the fundamental concepts and techniques used in forensic accounting. It emphasizes the role of forensic accountants in litigation support, dispute resolution, and fraud detection. The clear explanations and examples make it accessible to newcomers and practitioners alike.

7. Forensic Accountancy

Offering a global perspective, this book examines forensic accounting practices across different legal and financial systems. It highlights case studies and methodologies used in various jurisdictions. The text is valuable for those interested in international aspects of forensic accounting.

8. The Forensic Accounting Deskbook

A practical manual for forensic accountants, this deskbook provides checklists, templates, and procedural guidance. It covers the entire investigative process, from initial suspicion to report writing and testimony. The book is a handy tool for professionals engaged in forensic accounting assignments.

9. Investigating Financial Crime

This title delves into the investigation of financial crimes, including money laundering, embezzlement, and corruption. It explains the forensic accountant's role in gathering evidence and supporting legal actions. The book is aimed at law enforcement, forensic accountants, and regulatory personnel.

Forensic Accounting

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forensic accounting: Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination Mary-Jo Kranacher, Richard Riley, Joseph T Wells, 2010-06-08 Forensic Accounting provides comprehensive coverage of fraud detection and deterrence and includes the broader educational material of the forensic accounting field with all the necessary accompaniments. The text follows the model curriculum for education in fraud and forensic funded by the U.S. national Institute of Justice and developed by a Technical Working Group of experts in the field. The text serves as a comprehensive and authoritative resource for teaching forensic accounting concepts and procedures that is also and appropriate and pedagogically ready for class room use. This easy to read, comprehensive textbook includes case study examples to clearly explain technical concepts and bring the material to life.

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forensic accounting: Fraud Auditing and Forensic Accounting Tommie W. Singleton, Aaron J. Singleton, 2010-09-07 FRAUD AUDITING AND FORENSIC ACCOUNTING With the responsibility of detecting and preventing fraud falling heavily on the accounting profession, every accountant needs to recognize fraud and learn the tools and strategies necessary to catch it in time. Providing valuable information to those responsible for dealing with prevention and discovery of financial deception, Fraud Auditing and Forensic Accounting, Fourth Edition helps accountants develop an investigative eye toward both internal and external fraud and provides tips for coping with fraud when it is found to have occurred. Completely updated and revised, the new edition presents: Brand-new chapters devoted to fraud response as well as to the physiological aspects of the fraudster A closer look at how forensic accountants get their job done More about Computer-Assisted Audit Tools (CAATs) and digital forensics Technological aspects of fraud auditing and forensic accounting Extended discussion on fraud schemes Case studies demonstrating industry-tested methods for dealing with fraud, all drawn from a wide variety of actual incidents Inside this book, you will find step-by-step keys to fraud investigation and the most current methods for dealing with financial fraud within your organization. Written by recognized experts in the field of white-collar crime, this Fourth Edition provides you, whether you are a beginning forensic accountant or an experienced investigator, with industry-tested methods for detecting, investigating, and preventing financial schemes.

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forensic accounting topics. As a foundation review, a reference book, or as preparation for the Certification in Financial Forensics (CFF®) Exam, this publication will provide thoughtful and insightful examination of the key themes in this field, including: Professional responsibilities and practice management Fundamental forensic knowledge including laws, courts, and dispute resolution Specialized forensic knowledge such as bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, and valuation Through illustrative examples, cases, and explanations, this book makes abstract concepts come to life to help you understand and successfully navigate this complex area.

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Includes ten fraud detection studies, including vendor fraud, payroll fraud, due diligence when purchasing a business, and tax evasion Covers financial statement fraud, with data from Enron, AIG, and companies that were the target of hedge fund short sales Looks at how to detect Ponzi schemes, including data on Madoff, Waxenberg, and more Examines many other applications, from the Clinton tax returns and the charitable gifts of Lehman Brothers to tax evasion and number invention Benford's Law has 250 figures and uses 50 interesting authentic and fraudulent real-world data sets to explain both theory and practice, and concludes with an agenda and directions for future research. The companion website adds additional information and resources.

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analyzing their corporate or public sector data can highlight transactions, balances, or subsets of transactions or balances in need of attention. These tests are made up of a set of initial high-level overview tests followed by a series of more focused tests. These focused tests use a variety of quantitative methods including Benford's Law, outlier detection, the detection of duplicates, a comparison to benchmarks, time-series methods, risk-scoring, and sometimes simply statistical logic. The tests in the new edition include the newly developed vector variation score that quantifies the change in an array of data from one period to the next. The goals of the tests are to either produce a small sample of suspicious transactions, a small set of transaction groups, or a risk score related to individual transactions or a group of items. The new edition includes over two hundred figures. Each chapter, where applicable, includes one or more cases showing how the tests under discussion could have detected the fraud or anomalies. The new edition also includes two chapters each describing multi-million-dollar fraud schemes and the insights that can be learned from those examples. These interesting real-world examples help to make the text accessible and understandable for accounting professionals and accounting students without rigorous backgrounds in mathematics and statistics. Emphasizing practical applications, the new edition shows how to use either Excel or Access to run these analytics tests. The book also has some coverage on using Minitab, IDEA, R, and Tableau to run forensic-focused tests. The use of SAS and Power BI rounds out the software coverage. The software screenshots use the latest versions of the software available at the time of writing. This authoritative book: Describes the use of statistically-based techniques including Benford's Law, descriptive statistics, and the vector variation score to detect errors and anomalies Shows how to run most of the tests in Access and Excel, and other data analysis software packages for a small sample of the tests Applies the tests under review in each chapter to the same purchasing card data from a government entity Includes interesting cases studies throughout that are linked to the tests being reviewed. Includes two comprehensive case studies where data analytics could have detected the frauds before they reached multi-million-dollar levels Includes a continually-updated companion website with the data sets used in the chapters, the queries used in the chapters, extra coverage of some topics or cases, end of chapter questions, and end of chapter cases. Written by a prominent educator and researcher in forensic accounting and auditing, the new edition of *Forensic Analytics: Methods and Techniques for Forensic Accounting Investigations* is an essential resource for forensic accountants, auditors, comptrollers, fraud investigators, and graduate students.

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forensic accounting: *Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation* Daniel Calvinson-Ashley, 2016-08-31 Forensic Accountants combine their accounting knowledge with investigative skills in various litigation support and investigative accounting settings. Forensic Accountants are employed by public accounting firms' forensic accounting divisions; by consulting firms specializing in risk consulting and forensic accounting services; or by lawyers, law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, government organizations or financial institutions. Due to heightened awareness and growing intolerance of fraudulent activity, demand for Forensic

Accountants is rapidly increasing. There is a need for people with specialist skills who can undertake fraud investigations, valuations, assist in dispute resolution, prepare expert reports, and conduct fraud and forensic analysis. The Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation book covers basic and advanced knowledge in the following broad fraud and forensic accounting disciplines consisting of 7 sections with over 48 chapters; 1. Overview of Fraud and Forensic Accounting 2. Fraud Investigation 3. Gathering, Obtaining and Evaluating Evidence 4. Litigation and Expert Witnessing 5. Auditors and Management Responsibilities 6. Computer and Digital Forensics 7. Fraud and Forensic Accounting Engagement

forensic accounting: Fraud Auditing and Forensic Accounting Jack Bologna, Robert J. Lindquist, 1987-10-02 Details the investigation, detection, documentation, and prevention of accounting frauds, stock frauds, and employee theft and embezzlement. The authors, noted authorities in the field, deliver an incisive, in-depth treatment that merges an analysis of the organizational environment with the requisite auditing and investigative tools. Tells how to detect and deter fraud in books of account; the characteristics of organizations in which fraud is likely to occur; accounting, audit, and investigative techniques; and methods for documenting fraud and preparing evidence. A final section demonstrates how the theories, rules and procedures discussed can be applied in a variety of real-world cases.

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Brodsky, Neal A. Hochberg, 2005

forensic accounting: Fraud Investigation and Forensic Accounting in the Real World

William L. Jennings, 2022-05-22 This book covers every aspect of forensic accounting, anti-fraud control systems, and fraud investigations. The author uses his own case experience to guide the reader through each phase of a forensic accounting assignment and fraud investigation. The book opens with an explanation of what happened to a company that was ensnared in a huge commodity purchasing scheme. Using his knowledge and experience gained over 40 years, the author illustrates that unexpected fraud occurrences can happen to any company, in any industry. Additionally, the author explains the current white-collar crime threats that organizations face every day, as well as legal issues that are often implicated in forensic accounting and fraud investigation projects. Electronic and non-electronic evidence gathering is also covered in detail with illustrative examples. One chapter is devoted entirely to the often misunderstood, but extremely important, subject of witness interviews. It provides the correct approach to the analysis and correlation of evidence in determining findings and conclusions of an investigation. Another chapter is devoted to proper report writing. The author provides detailed guidance on presenting findings to a variety of audiences, including management, a board, law enforcement, and at trials and hearings. It also covers proper techniques for measuring economic damages and concludes with a useful index. William L. Jennings is a Senior Director at Delta Consulting Group. He is responsible for providing forensic accounting, investigation, and asset recovery services to corporations, government agencies, attorneys, and their clients, as well as business controls consulting services to organizations. With more than 40 years of experience in public accounting and auditing, forensic accounting, business valuation, investigation, asset recovery, and business controls development, Mr. Jennings has worked on hundreds of forensic accounting and investigation assignments and he provides expert testimony.

forensic accounting: Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program AICPA,

2019-04-09 The Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program (21.5 CPE credits) covers those areas representative of the AICPA's Body of Knowledge in the financial forensics area. This certificate program is tailored to provide an introduction to financial forensics and help you become familiar with the forensic accountant's professional responsibility. It provides a foundational knowledge of: The legal system How to plan and prepare a forensic engagement Gathering information Discovery Reporting Providing expert testimony This online CPE self-study certificate program consists of 19 required modules that utilize interactive scenario-based learning, including audio and video animation, to guide you through the concepts, including: AICPA Guidance for the Forensic Engagement Understanding the Forensic Accountant Role Understanding the Basic Structure of the Legal System Managing the Forensic Engagement Identifying and Obtaining Evidence Conducting Effective Interviews Common Investigative Techniques Deposition and Testimony Reporting Requirements & Preparing Sustainable Reports Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Reorganization Leveraging Technology in Forensic Engagements Economic Damages in Business Economic Damages for Individuals: A CPA's Role Economic Damages for Individuals: Case Studies and Analysis Calculating Intellectual Property Infringement Damages Family Law Engagements Fraud Prevention, Detection, and Response Financial Statement Fraud and Asset Misappropriation Valuations in Litigation Matters Key Topics Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Reorganization Computer Forensic Analysis Economic Damages Calculations Family Law Financial Statement Misrepresentation Fraud Prevention, Detection and Response Valuation Learning Objectives Interpret regulatory standards and legal system requirements applicable to forensic accounting engagements Describe the elements essential to accepting forensic accounting engagements such as identifying the engagement terms and client provisions, managing the engagement, and reporting requirements Identify the means of gathering evidence and conducting research critical to forensic engagements through the use of effective interviewing and investigative techniques Describe the role of the expert and non-expert in participating in depositions and providing testimony Credit Info CPE CREDITS: Online: 21.5 (CPE credit info) NASBA FIELD OF STUDY: Accounting LEVEL: Basic

PREREQUISITES: None ADVANCE PREPARATION: None DELIVERY METHOD: QAS Self-Study
COURSE ACRONYM: FACERTBundle.EL Online Access Instructions A personal pin code is enclosed in the physical packaging that may be activated online upon receipt. Once activated, you will gain immediate online access to the product. System Requirements AICPA's online CPE courses will operate in a variety of configurations, but only the configuration described below is supported by AICPA technicians. A stable and continuous internet connection is required. In order to record your completion of the online learning courses, please ensure you are connected to the internet at all times while taking the course. It is your responsibility to validate that CPE certificate(s) are available within your account after successfully completing the course and/or exam. Supported Operating Systems: Macintosh OS X 10.10 to present Windows 7 to present Supported Browsers: Apple Safari Google Chrome Microsoft Internet Explorer Mozilla Firefox Required Browser Plug-ins: Adobe Flash Adobe Acrobat Reader Technical Support: Please contact service@aicpa.org. Frequently Asked Questions What is the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program? Developed by the AICPA, this certificate program is specially designed to help accountants and others 1) build the knowledge needed to gain a basic understanding of the field of forensic accounting, 2) earn CPE credits needed to meet the 75-hour education requirement for the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) credential, or 3) earn CPE credits needed to maintain the CFF credential. Why should I participate? Certificate holders will learn or be refreshed on the core material in professional standards that applies to forensic engagements. The program provides participants with a solid understanding of how to work within the court system when engaged as a forensic accountant. With information provided by subject matter experts from each of the specialization areas, participants are provided first-hand knowledge that guides them through solid investigation, documentation, reporting and other required skills. A series of 20 courses takes you through the best practices styles for performing an engagement. These knowledge and skills are necessary for an accountant and others who are considering entering or are already in the field of forensic accounting. Is the certificate program available to both CPAs and other accounting professionals who are not CPAs? Yes. The courses that comprise the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program curriculum are available for CPAs, CAs and other accounting professionals who do not have one of these credentials or their equivalent. What level of knowledge should I possess prior to starting the certificate program? All individuals pursuing the Forensic Accounting Certificate of Achievement should possess a base knowledge of AICPA Auditing Standards. What course topics are included in the curriculum? The certificate program includes 19 required modules, including: 3 Fundamental modules, 6 Forensic Engagement modules, and 10 Specialized Knowledge modules. In total, the program provides 21.5 CPE hours at a basic level. Visit AICPAStore.com/forensic for a list of modules included in the program. All modules will be approximately 50-minutes long and provide individual CPE credit upon successful completion of the end-of-module exam. Some modules may be longer than 50 minutes, as required by the depth or complexity of the content, with a maximum length of 2 hours. How long will it take me to complete all of courses of the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program? This varies from individual to individual and is completely dependent upon the time the participant allocates to completing the coursework. There is a commitment of 21.5 required hours to successfully complete the program. What period of time do I have to complete the entire curriculum? Once you enter the program you have twenty-four (24) months from the date of purchase. You are encouraged to complete the program within a twelve (12) month period or less. Once I complete the curriculum and obtain my Forensic Accounting Certificate of Achievement, is there a time period for which it is active? No. The Forensic Accounting Certificate is not a professional credential or license. It is evidence of successful completion of a required course curriculum as of a point in time. As a result, it has no period for which it is deemed active or in-force. Am I required to obtain a certain number of CPE credits annually for the certificate to remain current and active? No. The Forensic Accounting Certificate of Achievement is not a professional credential or license. It is evidence of successful completion of a required course curriculum as of a point in time. As a result, it has no period for which it is deemed active or

in-force. If I am a CPA, will I receive CPE credit toward my CPA license if I take this program? Yes, all of the courses in the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program will qualify for CPE credit. The AICPA is a NASBA-approved provider of CPE. How many credits of CPE will I receive if I earn the certificate? Completing the curriculum will result in earning 21.5 credits. All of these credit hours will qualify for CPE credit and can count toward meeting your state's CPE requirements. Will the CPE credit satisfy my requirements for CMA, CIA or other certifications? The courses in the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program will be classified as Accounting for purposes of granting CPE credits. As with other AICPA courses that are approved for other certifications, we fully expect the Forensic Accounting Certificate courses will satisfy those requirements. To be certain, please check with the organization that issues your CMA, CIA or other certifications. If I am unable to complete the entire Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program, will I receive CPE credit for the courses I do complete? Yes. The courses are offered individually, so you will earn NASBA QAS CPE credit for each course you take and successfully complete the exam. You are not required to complete the entire program to earn CPE credit. However, you must successfully complete the exam for all required courses in the entire program in order to receive the Forensic Accounting Certificate of Achievement. I have prior experience in working with forensic accounting. Will I be allowed to test out of certain courses while still earning the certificate? Actual completion of the courses is required to earn the Forensic Accounting Certificate. CPE credit will be awarded for the courses, and the CPE standards do not allow for testing out of a course as a way to earn credit. Is the entire program fixed, or are their elective courses I can select from in earning the certificate? The curriculum for the Forensic Accounting Certificate is fixed. It is designed to provide participants with a solid understanding of knowledge required to perform forensic accounting engagements. In order to receive the Forensic Accountant Certificate of Achievement all required modules must be completed. What are the systems requirements for the e-learning portion of the program? Please review the information on the System Requirements tab for this product for complete information on minimum operating system and browser requirements. I am already proficient in forensic accounting but would like to learn more about a few select topics that are specific to my job. Can I purchase individual titles in the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program separately? Yes. Courses in the Certificate Program may be purchased individually. If you decide that you would like to enroll in the full Certificate Program after purchasing one or more individual courses, credit for those courses may be applied to the purchase amount of the full program as long as they have been purchased within one year of enrolling in the full program. Please call the AICPA service center at 888.777.7077 for more information. Can credits earned in the Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting Certificate Program be applied towards the 75-hour minimum CPE requirement to apply for the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) Credential? Yes. Courses in the Certificate Program can be applied toward the requirement to apply for the credential as well as the ongoing education requirement. When will I receive a hard copy of my certificate? You will receive your certificate in the mail 6-8 weeks after completing the program.

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