

PUBLIC AUDITING

Degree in Public Management

Code: 17301

Main Scientific Area: Auditing

Lecturer: Sara Alexandra Eira Serra

Language of Instruction: Portuguese

Regime: S2

Contact Hours: 45h Total Workload: 67h

ECTS: 4,0

Objectives

The Public Auditing program aims to provide students with theoretical and practical ability in the context of auditing in the public sector, either as internal or external auditors or as technical assistants of Statutory Auditors.

Learning Outcomes

Students should acquire skills to interpret and apply the guidelines of international and national organizations regarding the implementation of auditing standards in the Public Sector and the identification of the competencies of supervisory authorities in Portugal for the public sector, in particular, the Court of Auditors. Moreover, with the support of in cases study, students should be able to define the strategy and the auditing planning, resolve problems in the planning phases and to conduct auditing, evaluate risk and internal control system, to use the methods and auditing techniques, to prepare working documents and to issue final reports, explaining the reasons for solutions and judgments issued.

In this sense, at the end of the semester students should be able to:

Explain and understand the main concepts of public audit;
Analyze and solve case studies of audit;
Resolve exercises internal control.

Course Contents

1. Public Auditing Framework
2. International and National Standards on Public Auditing
3. The Control System of the State Financial Administration
4. External Control: The Court of Auditors
5. Strategy development and public auditing planning
6. Evaluation of Internal Control System

7. Procedures and audit tests
8. Work Documentation
9. Conclusions and audit reports

Recommended Bibliography

Lei de Organização e Processo do Tribunal de Contas.

Tribunal de Contas. (2016). Manual auditoria e princípios fundamentais.

Normas da INTOSAI

Normas da IFAC

Learning and Teaching Methods

The course contents were defined based on the objectives that are intended to achieve for this curricular unit, as well as the competencies to be acquired by the students. The consistency between these two parameters is then exemplified.

To provide students with the theoretical and practical capacity to carry out audits in the public sector, the first and second chapters will address the main concepts, as well as international and national standards of public auditing.

The third and fourth chapters will cover the control, in terms of the State Financial Administration and in macroeconomic terms, as well as external control, to be carried out by the Court of Auditors. In this context, practical exercises will be carried out on the Law of Organization and Procedure of the Court of Auditors, allowing students to acquire practical knowledge about public auditing.

Subsequently, on the audit phases, in particular on audit planning, internal control system evaluation, and audit procedures, case studies will also be carried out, which will give students the skills to conduct audits, audit, and the internal control systems of public entities.

Finally, the topic of working documentation and reporting will be addressed, showing students how the findings of a public sector audit work should be described and documented.

Assessment Methods

Face-to-face Regime

The continuous evaluation shall comprise the following elements of assessment:

- a) First written test – 50% of the final classification;
- b) Second written test – 50% of the final classification.

Approval in the curricular unit is conditioned by obtaining a minimum classification of not less than 9,50 values, on a scale between 0 values and 20 values, considering the weights corresponding to all components of the continuous evaluation.

In the remaining periods of evaluation, as well as in the improvement of grade, the evaluation is performed by the exam, weighting 100% of the final classification.

Distance Learning Regime (e-learning)

The continuous evaluation shall comprise the following elements of assessment:

- a) Group class activity – 15% of the final grade;
- b) Mini-test – 35% of the final classification;
- c) Final assessment exam – 50% of the final classification.

Approval in the curricular unit is conditioned by obtaining a minimum classification of not less than 9,50 values, on a scale between 0 values and 20 values, considering the weights corresponding to all components of the continuous evaluation.

In the remaining periods of evaluation, as well as in the improvement of grade, the evaluation is performed by the exam, weighting 100% of the final classification.