



About us

Established in 1941, **The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA)** is an international professional association with global headquarters in Lake Mary, Florida, USA.

The IIA is **the internal audit profession's leader in standards, certification, education, research, and technical guidance** throughout the world. Generally, members work in internal auditing, risk management, governance, internal control, information technology audit, education, government, and security.



Grassroots Voices

- **265,000+** members globally in 170 countries and territories
- Nearly **70,000** members in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean
- **143 chapters** across North America
- **200,000+** Certified Internal Auditors (CIA®)

“From our early roots in Canada and the United States to our global footprint on six continents today, The IIA is proud of the contributions of our members around the world. We have a strong track record of helping

corporations, governments, and other organizations enhance their value through the strategy, advice, and safeguards internal audit provides. And, we do so with the support of The IIA's globally recognized Standards, our highly respected Certified Internal Auditor (CIA®) designation, and our world-class exam and continuing education requirements.”

Anthony J. Pugliese, CIA®, CPA, CGMA, CITP
President and CEO
The Institute of Internal Auditors





What is internal auditing?

The purpose of **internal audit** is to enhance an organization's **success**.

Internal auditors achieve this purpose by providing the board and management with **independent, objective assurance** and **advice**.



Internal auditing strengthens an organization's:

- Value creation, protection, and sustainability
- Governance, risk management, and control processes
- Decision-making and oversight
- Reputation and credibility with its stakeholders
- Ability to serve the public interest

“A well-governed organization earns the public trust when the governing body, executive management, and internal audit are aligned to serve the best interests of all stakeholders.”

Benito Ybarra, CIA®, CISA, CFE, CCEP
Executive Vice President,
Standards & Guidance,
The Institute of Internal Auditors





Certifications

The IIA confers the only globally recognized professional certifications that ensure internal auditors operate **competently, independently, and ethically**.



The **Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®)** designation sets the standard for excellence within the profession and reflects the highest level of internal audit expertise.



The IIA also administers a **Certification in Risk Management Assurance® (CRMA®)**, granting internal auditors advanced skills in evaluating risk management and quality assurance.



To support students as well as new and rotational auditors on their journey into internal auditing, the **Internal Audit Practitioner (IAP)** designation is a great way to demonstrate internal audit aptitude.



Professional Standards

The work of internal auditors is guided by The IIA's **Global Internal Audit Standards**. The *Standards* are principles-focused and provide a framework for performing and promoting internal auditing.

The *Standards* convey mandatory requirements and guidance, ensuring internal audits are **independent, objective, and consistent**.



"The IIA's International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) is the foundation by which internal auditors and their stakeholders structure, uphold their internal audit functions, and perform internal audit activities.. Our Standards, as a core part of the IPPF, undergo thorough evaluation by important global stakeholders, ensuring their relevance, applicability, and enduring value. Our dedication lies in delivering standards and guidance that serve our internal auditors as well as the public interest."

Katleen Seeuws, CIA®, CGAP, CRMA, CFE
Vice President, Standards & Guidance,
The Institute of Internal Auditors

INTERNAL VS. EXTERNAL AUDIT



Internal audit

Objective Assurance Independent from Management

- Internal audit is a function, led by a Chief Audit Executive, **independent from management** that reports directly to the governing body (e.g., board). It is a fundamental element of sound corporate governance.
- Internal audit continuously evaluates **organizational risk** across an entire organization.
- Internal audit maintains visibility on operational, reporting, and compliance internal controls; provides **objective recommendations** on mitigating risk; and supports the achievement of organizational goals.



External audit

Impartial Verification of Financial Statements and Controls

- External audit is a service in which a qualified accounting firm conducts an annual impartial verification of corporate **financial statements and financial reporting controls**.
- In accordance with laws such as the U.S.'s Sarbanes-Oxley Act – as well as other rules and laws around the world – the scope of an **external audit is generally limited** to evaluating a company's financial statements and related internal controls.

INTERNAL VS. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The following chart highlights the fundamental differences between internal audit and external audit:

	INTERNAL AUDIT	EXTERNAL AUDIT ¹
Reporting Structure	Led by a Chief Audit Executive who is independent from management and reports directly to the governing body.	Retained by the audit committee and management to provide a specific service
Primary Certifications	Certified Internal Auditor	Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant
Professional Focus	Organizational risk, which may include: • Risk management • Compliance with laws and policies • Corporate governance • Operational efficiency and effectiveness • Organizational objectives • Cybersecurity protocols • Data privacy and security controls • Fraud prevention and detection	Quality financial reporting
Skills	Business and industry-specific knowledge Data mining and analytics Information technology Accounting Financial reporting	Accounting Financial reporting



“Internal audit provides a holistic, helicopter view of the operations of an organization, whether it is a corporation, government, or nonprofit. Internal auditors look not just at the financials, but also at strategic risks such as cybersecurity, data privacy and security, fraud, supply chain management, political and legal risks, and long-term strategy, to name just a few areas. They are in-house experts focused on adding value, mitigating risk and supporting risk management throughout the entire organization.”

Michael Downing
Senior Director, North American Advocacy
The Institute of Internal Auditors

1 External audit is one of many services offered by public accounting firms. This chart illustrates the fundamental differences between the internal audit function and the external audit service. It is not intended to ignore the additional technical and advisory services that are sometimes provided by contracted accounting firms (i.e., tax compliance and planning, management consulting, etc.).