

Job Title: Chief Auditor

Location: University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Reports To: Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Office & Chief Financial Officer

Job Overview

The University of Arizona invites applications for the position of Chief Auditor. The university seeks a steadfast and proven leader and an experienced auditor who will partner with the Arizona Board of Regents, university senior leadership, and colleagues across the entire campus to strengthen its comprehensive, impactful audit approach for the university. The Chief Auditor will be tasked to provide strategic, operational, and collaborative leadership for its internal audit function.

The University of Arizona

Established in 1885 and synonymous with academic and research excellence, the University of Arizona (U of A) is recognized as a Carnegie R1 institution and is a member of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). As a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) with more than \$955 million in research and development activity in fiscal year 2023, the U of A is recognized for advancing interdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial partnerships across academic disciplines. With a total faculty of ~3,750 and staff of nearly 18,000, the U of A serves more than 40,000 undergraduate students and over 10,000 graduate students.

As the state's land grant university, U of A is committed to improving and enriching the lives of the state's citizens through accessible education and training, groundbreaking research and outreach, and engagement programs within the communities it serves. With an estimated economic impact of \$8.3 billion annually, the U of A's reach spans well beyond the campus borders. With a presence in the state's 15 counties and serving 22 Federally Recognized Tribes, U of A prioritizes connecting communities to its research and resources. Through U of A's Cooperative Extension, Arizonans are connected statewide to a network of knowledgeable faculty and staff, and lifelong educational programs that are transformational in Arizona and beyond. Driven by a culture of service, principles of diversity and inclusion, and an entrepreneurial mindset embedded in its culture, the U of A empowers researchers and students by removing academic boundaries and connecting diverse minds to focus on big questions and practical solutions to real-world problems. Through impactful research, accessible education and partnerships with local stakeholders, the U of A addresses challenges faced by citizens across the globe.

In addition to U of A's historic campus in Tucson and its growing presence in Phoenix, it offers additional educational opportunities via U of A Online and Arizona Global Campus (UAGC). U of A Online offers more than 150 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificate programs. For more information about U of A online, please visit: online.arizona.edu. UAGC offers over 50 associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs. Through accelerated online classes, UAGC students hone the skills needed to succeed in their field. UAGC students are part of the U of A's community of students and alumni who support each other from game day to graduation day and beyond. For more information about the UAGC please visit: uagc.edu.

The U of A is currently closing in on its \$3 billion Fuel Wonder fundraising campaign. Fuel Wonder aims to harness the power of philanthropy and fuel the spirit of wonder that makes the U of A such a special place for transforming lives and investigating novel research. For more information about the U of A, please visit: arizona.edu.

Tucson, Arizona

Located in a valley surrounded by five mountain ranges, Tucson has the amenities and atmosphere of a major university city, along with desert and mountain landscapes and a climate conducive to year-round outdoor sports and activities. Tucson is a great place to enjoy the influence of multiple cultures and languages, with a rich history influenced by its proximity to Mexico and the presence of 22 federally recognized Indian Tribes in Arizona. With over 1 million residents, Tucson is also the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in North America, with traces of centuries-old Hohokam communities still visible in petroglyphs throughout the region.

Set in the lush Sonoran Desert only 65 miles from Mexico and surrounded by mountains, forests, monuments, and national parks, this unique environment is famous for mild winters, stunning sunsets, outdoor adventures, and a multicultural population that reflects the rich diversity of the Southwest. With 350 days of sunshine annually, Tucson and surrounding Southern Arizona is an ideal place for hikers, bikers, swimmers, triathletes, tennis players and golfers. The city is also a thriving hub of economic and commercial activity in the Greater Southwest, home to numerous medical and research centers, and a site for high technology industries, from optics to film.

Beyond technology and the great outdoors, Tucson and the surrounding area are well known for their rich cultural and scientific offerings, including opera, theatre, ballet, mariachi festivals, rodeo, Tucson Humanities Festival, the Poetry Center, Biosphere 2, the Kitt Peak National Optical Astronomy Observatory, the historic San Xavier Mission, and world-class museums, including the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Center for Creative Photography, the Pima Air and Space Museum, and the Tucson Museum of Art. Most recently, Tucson was designated as the United States' first City of Gastronomy by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Office of Internal Audit

Founded in 1995, the Office of Internal Audit serves as the University of Arizona's independent, objective assurance and consulting operation. Internal Audit helps the U of A accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

Internal Audit reviews the reliability and integrity of information, compliance with policies and regulations, the safeguarding of assets, the economical and efficient use of resources and established operational goals and objectives. The following five concepts guide the team:

- **Objectivity:** Be independent, honest, and promote integrity
- **Risk:** Assess what can go wrong and the impact
- **Value:** Think big picture
- **Efficiency:** See if there's a better way
- **Compliance:** Consider regulations and policies

For more information about Internal Audit visit: audit.arizona.edu and azregents.edu/meetings/committees/audit-and-risk-management.

The Position

The Chief Auditor will lead the University of Arizona internal audit function and ensure the institution operates efficiently, ethically, and in compliance with regulatory requirements, standards and applicable laws that govern the Arizona Board of Regents and public higher education institutions.

Reporting to the Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Auditor designs, develops, and implements auditing policy and procedures, performing audits of financial and operational systems, and ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations. This role works closely with U of A leadership to assess risk management, control processes, and governance systems.

In addition to its operational reporting to the SVP COO/CFO, the position has a direct reporting line to both the university president and the chair of the Arizona Board of Regents Audit & Risk Committee.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Leadership & Strategy

- Develop and execute the university's internal audit strategy, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and objectives.
- Provide independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve the university's operations.
- Engage with executive leadership, the Internal Audit Review Board, and the Arizona Board of Regents to develop and execute institutional risk assessment and audits in accordance with university Policy and direction.
- Lead and manage the internal audit team, including recruitment, training, and professional development.
- Foster an ethical culture, maintaining high standards of integrity and professionalism.

Audit Planning & Execution

- Oversee the preparation and execution of comprehensive risk-based audit plans.
- Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of internal controls, operational processes, financial reporting, and compliance systems.
- Identify areas of potential risk, fraud, or non-compliance and make recommendations for corrective actions.
- Review and assess the accuracy and integrity of financial statements and reports.

Risk Management & Compliance

- Monitor and evaluate the university's risk management framework, recommending improvements where necessary.
- Ensure that the university adheres to state, federal, and institutional regulations, policies, and best practices.
- Conduct internal investigations to assess validity of suspected risks.
- Coordinate and comply with external audit reviews.



- Stay updated on regulatory changes affecting higher education institutions, such as those related to financial aid, research funding, and student services.

Communication & Reporting

- Present audit findings, recommendations, and updates to the university's executive leadership, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the Audit & Risk Committee.
- Collaborate with university departments to improve business practices, increase operational efficiencies, and ensure compliance.
- Prepare and present detailed reports, including audit opinions and risk assessments, to stakeholders.

Consultation & Advisory

- Provide expertise advisory consultative services to university departments on process improvements, policy formulation, and risk mitigation.
- Serve as a strategic advisor to the President and other key stakeholders on audit, risk, and governance matters.
- May participate in or engage with external boards, committees or institutions to foster strong relationships with peer universities to stay abreast of best practices for the industry of internal audit.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- In-depth knowledge of audit principles, practices, and procedures in a university or public sector setting.
- Strong leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- High level of integrity, professionalism, and attention to detail.
- Ability to assess risk and implement audit procedures to improve operational and financial systems.
- Familiarity with state and federal regulations affecting public universities.
- Proficiency with audit software and data analytics tools.

Minimum Qualifications

Education

- Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, or a related field.
- Master's degree preferred.

Certifications

- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), or Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) preferred or equivalent certification.

Experience:

- Minimum of 7 years of progressive auditing experience, including leadership roles.
- Previous experience in higher education or a public sector environment is highly preferred.

Any equivalent combination of education, experience, certification, and training may be considered.

Preferred Qualifications:**Education:**

- Master's degree.

Certifications:

- More than one relevant professional certification.

Experience:

- Previous experience in higher education or a public sector environment is highly preferred.
- Previous experience in a large, matrixed organization.