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The AI GRC Checklist

A practical checklist to evaluate your readiness for roles in AI governance

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Transitioning into AI Governance in 3 Phases

Artificial intelligence introduces new challenges that traditional governance frameworks were never designed to manage. As organisations adopt AI systems, they require professionals who understand how to assess risks, implement controls, and ensure responsible, compliant use of AI.

This guide outlines the essential phases, core competencies, and practical steps for GRC professionals preparing to transition into AI Governance, Risk, and Compliance (**AI GRC**). Use it as a guide to plan your development and evaluate your readiness for roles in AI governance.

At the end of each phase outline, see the relevant skills checklist. Use these checklists to track your progress toward AI GRC readiness.

Phase 1: Exploration & Foundations

Overview

Establish baseline knowledge of AI governance, its core risks, and the global frameworks shaping responsible AI. Use this knowledge to develop a clear understanding of what AI GRC involves and how your existing GRC skills apply.

Steps

Step 1: Understand AI GRC

Learn the fundamental risks associated with AI systems, including bias, explainability challenges, and performance drift.

Step 2: Map Your Existing GRC Skills

Identify which of your current skills (e.g. risk assessment, controls, policies, regulatory interpretation) transfer directly into AI governance.

Step 3: Learn Core Frameworks

 Review ISO/IEC 42001, the EU AI Act, the NIST AI RMF, and global ethical principles to understand foundational expectations for responsible AI.

Checklist

☐ I understand the core risks associated with AI systems.

☐ I can explain what AI GRC involves.

☐ I can connect my current GRC skills to AI governance activities.

☐ I am familiar with ISO/IEC 42001.

☐ I am familiar with the EU AI Act.

☐ I am familiar with the NIST AI Risk Management Framework.

Phase 2: Building Competence

Overview

Develop the technical, data, and operational literacy needed to assess and support AI governance activities. This will give you the ability to evaluate AI risks, engage technical teams, and contribute to governance processes.

Steps

Step 4: Build AI Literacy

Develop a working understanding of model behaviour, training data, evaluation metrics, and lifecycle risks.

Step 5: Strengthen Data Governance Knowledge

Learn how data quality, lineage, consent, and privacy requirements influence AI reliability and fairness.

Step 6: Conduct AI-Specific Risk Assessments

Evaluate technical, ethical, operational, and regulatory risks associated with AI systems and their deployment environments.

Step 7: Understand Governace Roles aand Accountability

Familiarise yourself with how responsibilities are distributed across data science, product, compliance, security, and leadership functions.

Step 8: Build Documentation and Monitoring Skills

Learn to create model cards, risk logs, decision records, monitoring plans, and audit evidence for AI systems.

Checklist

☐ I understand how AI models are trained and evaluated.

☐ I can identify data quality and governance requirements.

☐ I can conduct or support AI-specific risk assessments.

☐ I understand how accountability is distributed across AI teams.

☐ I can create essential documentation for AI oversight.

☐ I know how to support monitoring and lifecycle management.

Phase 3: Professional Growth & Certification

Overview

Formalise your expertise, apply your skills to real scenarios, and establish credibility as an AI governance professional. This will position you as a capable contributor or leader in AI governance initiatives.

Steps

Step 9: Communicate AI Risk Effectively

Translate technical AI issues into business-oriented language for decision-makers and oversight functions.

Step 10: Pursue AI GRC Certification

Strengthen your professional credentials through structured training aligned with global standards.

Step 11: Apply Your Skills to a Real Use Case

Walk through an AI system's governance lifecycle to demonstrate practical capability.

Step 12: Stay Current with Evolving Standards

Follow regulatory updates, new frameworks, and best practices to maintain long-term expertise.

Checklist

☐ I can communicate AI risk to non-technical audiences.

☐ I have explored AI GRC certification option.

☐ I have applied my knowledge to a real or hypothetical AI use case.

☐ I stay updated on emerging AI regulations and standards.

What To Do Next

Use this roadmap to guide your development and highlight areas where you may benefit from further training, practice, or certification.

For structured learning aligned with global AI governance practices and frameworks, explore **our course catalogue.**

About Safeshield

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