Why is it necessary to analyze fraud risks and trends in your area?

Analytics can help the University learn how fraud is committed and identify the most effective ways to detect it; identify fraud losses at the organizational level; and provide insights into how our organization’s response to occupational fraud compares to others.

Conducting control and risk analysis within your area may help you see which employees or units present the greatest fraud risk. You may also learn where the largest frauds are likely to occur.

On a larger scale, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) produces an annual Report to the Nations on fraud trends which can inform the analysis performed at the organization level. The 2020 ACFE Report to the Nations presented summarized data from 2,500+ occupational fraud cases and 125 countries across 23 major industry categories.

According to the ACFE, their fraud data can be used to:

- Compare our University’s fraud risks to others by industry, region and size;
- Benchmark our anti-fraud efforts against similar organizations and against the most effective methods for reducing fraud losses; and
- Identify behavioral clues that can be indicators of fraudulent conduct.

The analysis you conduct within your own areas does not have to be as elaborate as what is shown in the ACFE’s Report to the Nations. Some very simple steps you can take to analyze fraud risk within your area are:

1. **Assessment**
   - Conduct a risk assessment to determine where weak points exist which may be exploited by someone seeking to commit fraud.

2. **Development**
   - Put together policies, procedures and controls to prevent, detect and mitigate the fraud risks you’ve identified.

3. **Implementation**
   - Put your policies, procedures and controls into effect. Make sure everyone in your area is educated on the correct processes.

4. **Monitoring**
   - Periodically review your policies, procedures and controls to ensure they are operating effectively and revise them as needed.

The Division of Audit is available to provide consultation regarding fraud risk assessment and analysis. You may contact us by calling 850-412-5479 or emailing us at divisionofaudit@famu.edu.