

# The Annual Internal Controls Certification Process

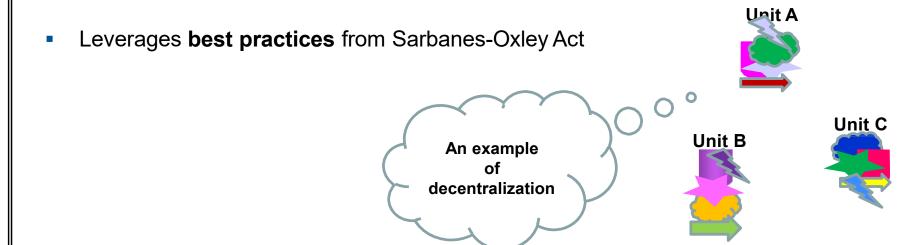


**The Office of Internal Controls** 



## **History**

- Began with 2005 FY
- High degree of decentralization in higher education
- Designed to improve awareness and accountability related to fiscal stewardship and internal controls





## **Annual Process**



## September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Soturday
						-

- Deans, Directors, Vice Presidents sign annual Certification Form to attest that they
  - Meet fiscal and stewardship responsibilities
  - Review & understand unit's financial performance and confirm it fairly represents activities
  - Aware of and committed to enforcing appropriate internal controls in unit
- Certification form submitted by 46 units across campus each year
  - Schools/Colleges, Health System, Staffs, Flint, Dearborn
- Occurs every September after closure of prior fiscal year results
  - Early September: Certification Requests issued
  - End September: Certification Submissions due



## **Unit Certification Timeline**

<u>Event</u> <u>Timing</u>

Roll-out control guidance and plans to Jan – Jun units

Units complete gap analysis
 Feb – Sept

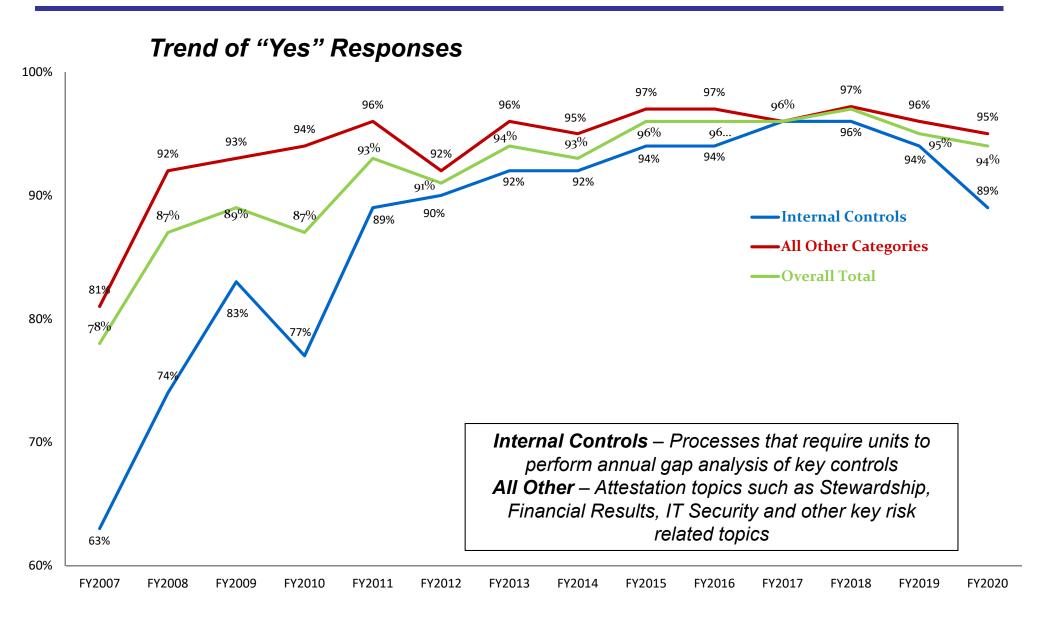
Issue Certification Requests
 Early Sept

Signed Unit Certification Forms due End Sept

 Present Unit Certification Results to November Regents



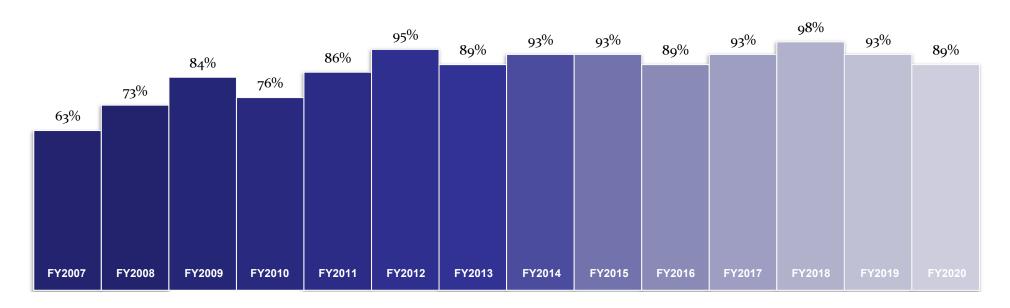
## FY 2020 Unit Certification Results





## FY 2020 Unit Certification Results

## "Yes" Responses – Employment Process\*



Financial Aid

Gift Cards

\*Employment was the only gap analysis process in scope for FY 2020. Other processes included in alternating year approach:

PCard Travel & Expense

**Cash Handling** 

Iournal Entries

journal Entries

Capital Equipment

Financial Stewardship of Gifts

**Human Subject Incentive Program** 

#### "Yes" Response:

1<sup>st</sup> Year – Gap analysis completed and plans in place for addressing control gaps within the next 12 months

**On-Going** – Unit has completed annual gap analysis and proper controls are in place



# **Key Unit Operational Elements/Tasks**

- Internal Controls Gap Analysis
- Written Procedure Documentation
- Management Oversight Reporting
- Department Sub-Certification



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# What is a Gap Analysis?

- Annual review of key unit internal control points for select financial related processes highlighted in the Unit Certification process
  - Employment
  - ✓ P-Card
  - Journal Entries
  - ✓ Cash Handling (Cash/Credit Card)
  - ✓ Gifts

- ✓ Gift Cards
- ✓ Employee Travel & Expense (Concur)
- ✓ Human Subject Incentive Payments (HSIP)
- Unit Administered Financial Aid
- Capital Equipment

- Annual review validates controls are in place to
  - Minimize risk
  - Improve efficiency and effectiveness
- Accommodate for changes in people, process, systems
- Unintended/unknown implications



# What is a Gap Analysis?

Not all financial related processes apply to all units/departments

**Examples:** 

- Unit did not have any gift card usage in the FY
- Unit did not have any Human Subject Incentives in the FY

 Should be completed by individuals involved in process (i.e. handling cash, processing journal entries, etc.)



University Audits noted the more robust the gap analysis process,
 the better the department controls



## **Alternating-Year Gap Analysis Approach**

Gap Analysis Process	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	Comments	
Employment	Х	X	Х	Annually - higher risk / significant materiality	
Concur	Х			Alternate Concur & P-Card	
P-Card				Delete for FY21 (activity down 75%)	
		Adjusted			
Cash / Checks	X			Alternate Cash/Checks & Credit Card	
Credit Card			X	Alternate Cash/Checks & Credit Card	
		For			
Gift Cards				Delete for FY21 (activity down 80%)	
Journal Entry	X			Alternate Gift Cards & JE (lower risk processes)	
		Pandemic			
Financial Aid			X	Alternate Every Other Year	
HSIP	X			Alternate Every Other Year	
Stewardship of Gifts	x			Alternate Every Other Year	
Capital Equipment	X		x	Alternate Every Other Year (after 2020)	

#### Notes:

- The gap analysis guidance for all processes will be updated and available on the Internal Controls Website each year as reference, even if not required as part of the Annual Unit Internal Controls Certification
- Units are still expected to have proper controls in place for all processes, even if not part of Annual Unit Internal Controls Certification



# **Departmental Gap Analysis Approach**

Department	Employment	P-Card	Journal Entries	Cash Handling	Gifts	Gift Cards	Employee Travel & Expenses (Concur)	Human Subject Incentive Payments (HSIP)	Unit Administered Financial Aid	Capital Equipment
Department 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓
Department 2	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
Department 3	✓	✓			✓		✓			
Department 4	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Department 5	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Department 6	✓	✓			✓		✓			
Department 7	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Department 8	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Department 9	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓
Department 10	✓	✓			✓		✓			

<sup>✓ =</sup> Department to complete gap analysis & sub-certification



## Why perform a GAP Analysis?

University of Michigan (Directional)

**Employment** 



Process over \$4.4 billion in employee compensation annually

P-Card



Approximately **6,000** P-Card holders with open cards across campus

**Journal Entries** 



Process approximately 100,000 journal entries annually

**Cash Handling** 



Processing over **30,000** departmental deposits, totaling over **\$500 million** annually

**Gifts** 



Approximately **\$400 million** in gift fund balance Approximately **\$320 million** in gift expenses annually (does not include transfers)

**Credit Cards** 



Over 500 Credit Card Merchants



## **How to perform a Gap Analysis**

- Process consists of assessing series of control points/questions
- Different mechanisms available to facilitate gap analysis process:

## 1. Gap Analysis On-line Tool in MReports

- Eliminates use of Excel spreadsheets
- Records prior year responses
- Easier mechanism to distribute to multiple individuals and departments
- Automatically summarizes multiple departments to highlight trends, common issues, etc.

## 2. Gap Analysis Excel Spreadsheet

Lists control points in easy to use "tool" format



## **How to perform a Gap Analysis**

## **1st Mechanism:** Gap Analysis Excel Spreadsheet

An example for the PCard process

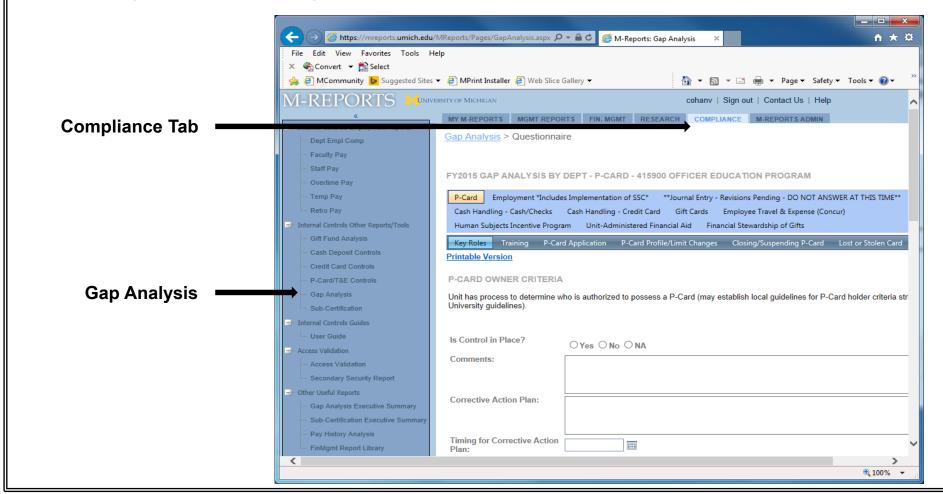
Key Roles	Is Control in Place? Y/N	Comments	Corrective Action Plan	Timing
Unit has process to determine who is authorized to possess a PCard (may establish local guidelines for PCard holder criteria stricter than university guidelines).	N	for who is authorized to	John Doe will document procedures, identify key activities, roles, and responsibilites related to the possession of a PCard	3/5/2019



## **How to perform a Gap Analysis**

**2nd Mechanism:** Gap Analysis On-Line Tool in MReports

An example for the PCard process





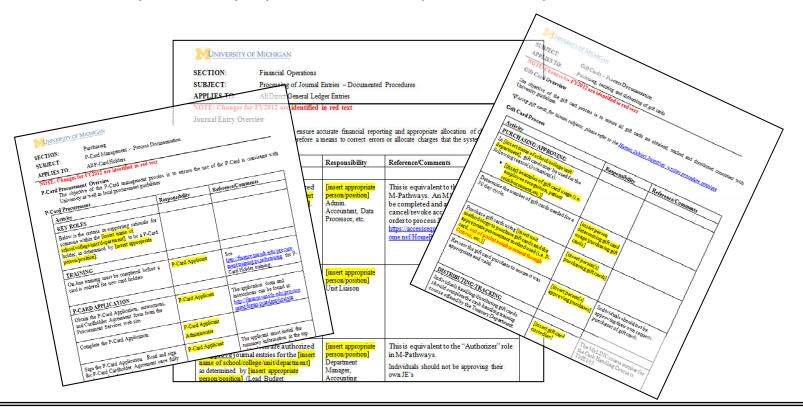
# **Key Unit Operational Elements/Tasks**

- Internal Controls Gap Analysis
- Written Procedure Documentation
- Management Oversight Reporting
- Department Sub-Certification



## What is written procedure documentation?

- Documented procedures = key control
  - Clarify roles and responsibilities
  - Ensure process is happening as intended
  - Help with employee turnover (expected/unexpected)





## Units don't have to start from scratch



SECTION: Purchasing

SUBJECT: PCard Management - Process Documentation

APPLIES TO: All PCard Holders

#### PCard Procurement Overview

The objective of the PCard management process is to ensure the use of the PCard is consistent with university as well as local procurement guidelines

#### PCard Procurement

Activity	Responsibility	Reference/Comments
KEY ROLES		
Below is the criteria or supporting rationale for someone within the [insert name of school/college/unit/department] to be a PCard holder, as determined by [insert appropriate person/position]:		
TRAINING		
On-line training must be completed before a card is ordered for new card holders	PCard Applicant	See http://procurement.umich.edu/car d-programs/purchasing-card- pcard/application-training for PCard training.
PCARD APPLICATION		
Complete the online PCard Application. The application process includes acceptance of the PCard Cardholder Agreement as well as attesting to completing PCard training.	PCard Applicant Administrator	Applying for a PCard is an on- line process which can be found at <a href="http://proc&lt;br&gt;urement.umich.edu/card-&lt;br&gt;programs/purchasing-card-&lt;br&gt;pcard/application-training.">http://proc urement.umich.edu/card- programs/purchasing-card- pcard/application-training.</a>
As part of the on-line process, the applicant must select the appropriate individual to approve the request in the unit.	PCard Applicant	The application is routed to the individual selected for unit approval.

Templates are located on the Internal Controls website:

> http://www.finance.umic h.edu/controls/tools

- Key control points from internal control gap analysis tool
- Units can customize templates as appropriate to reflect unit specific procedures
- Links to related training, websites, etc



# **Key Unit Operational Elements/Tasks**

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## What is Management Oversight Reporting?

- Monitoring/oversight = key control
  - Helps to highlight if operating controls are working
  - Identifies trends/exceptions
  - ☐ High level summaries (by month/year, comparing to prior years, etc.)

**Employment** 

P-Card

**Cash Handling** 

Concur

Gifts











Has time been entered timely and properly approved?

Are overtime, temp and retro pay reasonable?

Are P-Card holders appropriate?

Are credit limits appropriate compared to spend levels?

Have proper individuals taken cash handling training?

Are credit card merchants PCI compliant?

Are proper individuals approving expenses?

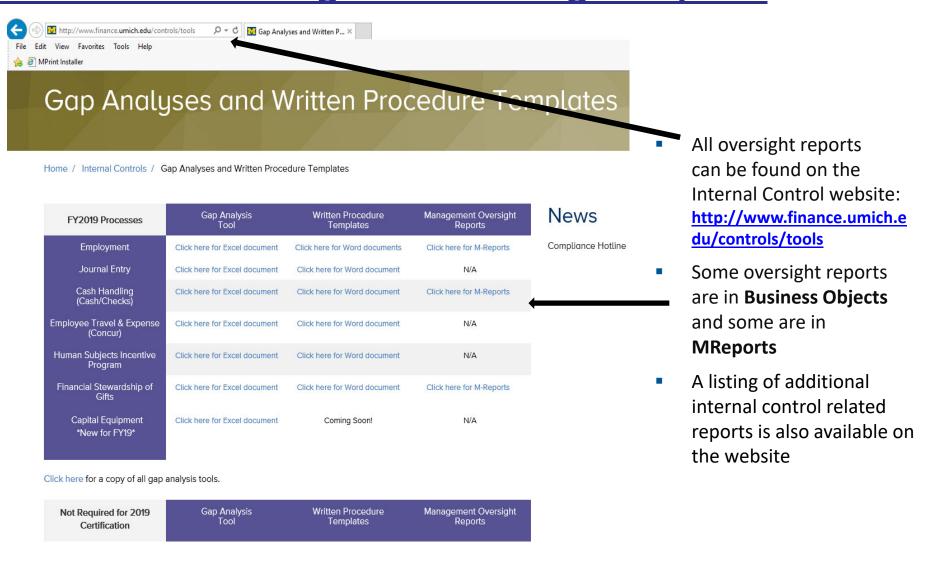
Are spending levels and patterns appropriate?

Are there gift funds with negative balances?

Are gift balances being used?



## **How to access Management Oversight Reports**





# **Key Unit Operational Elements/Tasks**

- Internal Controls Gap Analysis
- Written Procedure Documentation
- Management Oversight Reporting
- Department Sub-Certification



## What is Department Sub-Certification?

Provides support/basis for Dean/Director/Vice President Certification

#### **Sub-Certification vs. Certification**

Sub-certification is **performed at the department level** in order to support the Certification of Financial Results & Internal Controls that the Dean/VP/Director signs

### **Sub-Certification Completion**

- Either complete via a hard copy or on-line in MReports
- •<u>Does not</u> replace official unit hard-copy certification form to be signed by Deans/VPs/Directors and submitted to the Office of Internal Controls.

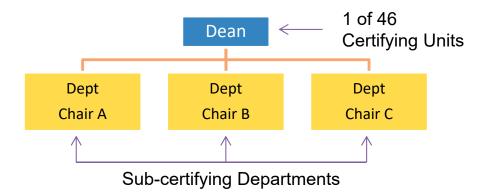
#### **Sub-Certification Answers**

- YES All work completed...
- PARTIALLY Completed some but not all work...
- NO Have not yet started...



## What is Department Sub-Certification?

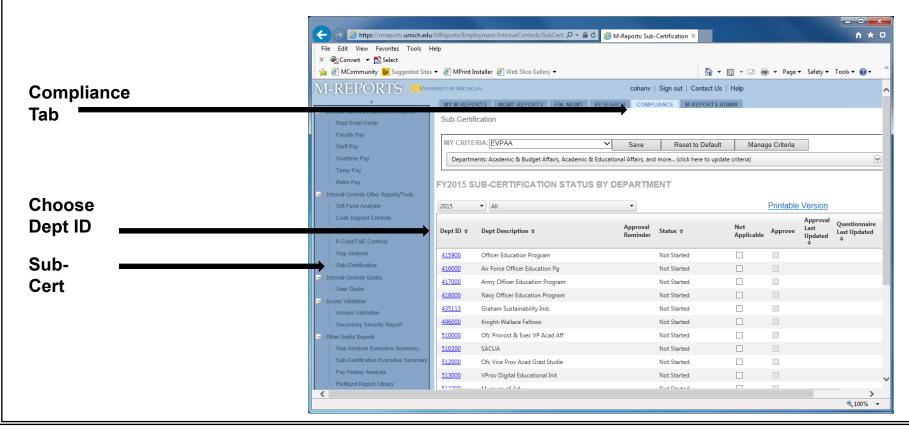
- Certification/Attestation Categories
  - 1. Stewardship
  - Financial Results
  - 3. Internal Controls / Risk Management
- **Examples**
- Conflict of Interest
- Information Assurance
- "Red Flags" Identify Theft





## **How to perform Department Sub-Certification**

- Approver/Certifier can log into MReports and answer the Certification questions his/herself and then approve by checking the box
- Approver/Certifier could appoint someone else to answer the questions on their behalf. They would still need to log to confirm answers and approve.
- MReports requires Duo Two-Factor Security





## **Internal Control Related Resources**

- The Office of Internal Controls website: <a href="http://www.finance.umich.edu/controls">http://www.finance.umich.edu/controls</a>
  - Provides guidance, support tools, and documents
  - Helps units across campus manage financial related processes





- Kay Bressler, Internal Controls Data Analyst: (734)763-4359 or bressler@umich.edu
- Cory Belote, Internal Controls Coordinator: (734)615-0121 or <a href="mailto:ctremp@umich.edu">ctremp@umich.edu</a>
- University Audits website: <a href="http://www.umich.edu/~uaudits/">http://www.umich.edu/~uaudits/</a>
- Compliance Resource Center: <a href="https://ogc.umich.edu/compliance-resource-center/">https://ogc.umich.edu/compliance-resource-center/</a>



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