CAREER ROADMAP

How to Become a Third-Party AI Risk Analyst: A Complete Roadmap

As companies buy AI from vendors, someone has to vet it. Third-Party AI Risk Analyst is a fast-growing niche: what it involves, the skills, and how to move into it from TPRM or GRC.

IN THIS ROADMAP

- What a Third-Party AI Risk Analyst does
- Skills you need
- Certifications that help
- Where it leads

A **Third-Party AI Risk Analyst** assesses the AI systems, tools, and model providers an organization buys or integrates. As enterprises adopt AI through vendors rather than building it in-house, third-party AI risk has become one of the fastest-growing niches in the field, and a strong specialization for people from vendor risk or TPRM backgrounds.

WHAT A THIRD-PARTY AI RISK ANALYST DOES

- Runs **due diligence** on AI vendors, tools, and model providers
- Builds and reviews AI-specific vendor questionnaires (data use, training data, security, bias, explainability)
- Assesses vendor AI against frameworks (**NIST AI RMF**, ISO/IEC 42001) and contractual and regulatory requirements
- Documents residual risk and tracks remediation and re-review cadence
- Coordinates with Procurement, Legal, Security, and Privacy

SKILLS YOU NEED

- Third-party risk management (TPRM) and vendor due diligence
- AI risk concepts (data provenance, model risk, security)
- Framework literacy and contract-requirement mapping
- Documentation and stakeholder coordination

CERTIFICATIONS THAT HELP

CRISC or CTPRP for third-party risk, plus the **IAPP AIGP** for the AI angle.

WHERE IT LEADS

To broader **AI Risk Analyst** and **AI Compliance Specialist** roles, and toward vendor-risk and governance program leadership.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is third-party AI risk growing so fast?

Most organizations adopt AI by buying it, not building it. Every vendor tool introduces risk the buyer is still accountable for, so someone has to vet the vendor's AI, and that is a distinct, in-demand skill.

Can I move into this from traditional vendor risk?

Yes. TPRM and vendor due diligence transfer directly. You add AI-specific concepts (training data, model risk, explainability) and the AI frameworks on top.