

CAREER ROADMAP

How to Become a VP of AI Governance & Ethics: A Complete Roadmap

The executive cap of the AI governance track: enterprise strategy, board reporting, and risk acceptance. What the role owns, the path to it, and the experience that gets you there.

IN THIS ROADMAP

- What a VP of AI Governance & Ethics owns
- The path to it
- Certifications that help
- Where it leads

A free career roadmap from GRC Careers · AGJ, the AI governance job board

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A **VP of AI Governance & Ethics** owns enterprise AI governance strategy: the operating model, regulatory posture, board and executive reporting, and the final calls on risk acceptance and escalation. It is the executive cap of the AI governance track, above Director / Head of Responsible AI, and in some organizations it reports to or overlaps with the Chief AI Officer.

WHAT A VP OF AI GOVERNANCE & ETHICS OWNS

- Enterprise **Responsible AI strategy**, standards, and governance model
- Cross-functional councils and executive decision forums
- **Board and executive reporting** on AI risk, incidents, and compliance posture
- Regulatory posture across jurisdictions (the EU AI Act and beyond)
- Budget, team building, vendor strategy, and risk-acceptance and escalation processes

THE PATH TO IT

- A track record leading AI governance or a Responsible AI program
- Executive stakeholder management and board-level communication
- Depth in governance design, regulatory posture, and incident leadership
- Often a background in chief risk, compliance, CISO, or privacy leadership

CERTIFICATIONS THAT HELP

Credentials matter less at this level than a proven record, but the **IAPP AIGP** and senior risk or governance certifications support the profile.

WHERE IT LEADS

To **Chief AI Officer** in some organizations, or a Chief Risk Officer role with an AI portfolio.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is a VP of AI Governance different from a Chief AI Officer?

The VP of AI Governance & Ethics owns governance, risk, ethics, and compliance for AI. A Chief AI Officer usually owns AI strategy and adoption broadly. In some organizations the roles overlap or the VP reports to the CAIO.

What background leads to this role?

Leadership in AI governance or Responsible AI, often built on chief risk, compliance, CISO, or privacy leadership experience, plus board-level communication skills.

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