

CAREER ROADMAP

How to Become an AI Risk Analyst: A Complete Roadmap

AI Risk Analyst is a core entry-to-mid role: run AI risk assessments, map systems to frameworks, and review third-party AI risk. The skills, certifications, and path, no data science degree needed.

IN THIS ROADMAP

- What an AI Risk Analyst does
- Skills you need
- Certifications that help
- Transferable backgrounds
- Where it leads

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

Read the latest version, and browse live Risk Analyst jobs, at ai-governance-jobs.com/ai-governance-career-guides/how-to-become-an-ai-risk-analyst

An **AI Risk Analyst** performs AI risk assessments and maps AI systems to governance requirements, frameworks, controls, and third-party risk, to reduce operational, legal, and reputational risk. It is one of the most common core roles in the field and a natural step up from coordinator and associate positions.

WHAT AN AI RISK ANALYST DOES

- Conducts **AI risk assessments**: use case → risks → mitigations → residual risk
- Maps requirements to frameworks such as the **NIST AI RMF** and internal policy
- Runs **third-party AI risk reviews** of vendors, tools, and model providers
- Supports monitoring, controls testing, and remediation tracking

SKILLS YOU NEED

- Risk assessment methodology and control mapping
- Third-party risk management (TPRM)
- Framework literacy (NIST AI RMF, ISO/IEC 42001)
- Ability to reason about model risk (bias, drift, explainability) at a non-technical level
- Clear documentation and communication

CERTIFICATIONS THAT HELP

A GRC base such as **CRISC** or ISACA CGRC, plus the AI-specific **IAPP AIGP**. A privacy credential (CIPP) helps for data-heavy roles.

TRANSFERABLE BACKGROUNDS

GRC analyst, privacy analyst, audit associate, cybersecurity analyst, or policy analyst experience transfers directly. You are learning an AI-specific rulebook, not a new career.

WHERE IT LEADS

Up to **AI Compliance Specialist**, **Sr. AI Compliance Analyst**, and **AI Governance Program Manager**.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to be a data scientist to be an AI Risk Analyst?

No. You assess and document risk and apply governance frameworks. You need to understand how AI systems fail (bias, drift, opacity), not build or train them.

What is the fastest way to break in?

Learn the NIST AI RMF, earn one respected credential (AIGP or CRISC), and build a portfolio artifact such as a sample AI risk assessment or third-party review.

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