Data Analytics

Definition: A means by which auditors can identify high-risk transactions by using information from the UW financial records.

Examples:

– Equipment purchased in last 60 days of an Award
– Cost Transfers completed more than 120 days from original posting
– Meal or Food Costs
Example

Supply purchase of $11,728 in March 2015 moved in November 2015 onto an Award with a start date in August 2015

• Cost Transfer completed 255 days after original transaction
• Equipment purchased 141 days before start date of Award
Data Analytics

• Used by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) during UW’s recent NSF audit

• Other federal agencies are watching the NSF approach and are likely to adapt it

• Post Award Fiscal Compliance (PAFC) undertaking a pro-active approach to help departments prepare for these types of audits
PAFC Data Analytics Program

- Mimic auditors by identifying high risk transactions
- Providing information to Deans & Departments:
  - List of high risk transactions
  - Definition of high risk transactions
  - Suggested next steps
  - Information on best practices
- Link transaction data to participant training data
- Expected to begin in April 2016
Limits to PAFC Outreach

- Given volume of data, PAFC can’t review every transaction
- PAFC does not have access to all expense transaction information
- Department responsibility to review transactions using guidelines and information provided
PAFC Program – Phase I

• Cost Transfers: onto federally sponsored Awards completed more than 120 days from original posting

• Equipment (06 Object Code): purchased within last 60 days (or after) of Award end
Cost Transfers – 2015

- CTs onto Federal Award > 120 Days: 5,252
- Number of Departments: 25
- Value of Transactions: $5,606,624

82% not 120
18% over 120 days
Equipment Purchases – End of Award 2015

- Number of Transactions: 410
- Number of Departments: 45
- Value of Transactions: $9,984,177
Questions?

• Contact gcafco@uw.edu
• PAFC can provide consultation or data review