CAREER ROADMAP

How to Become an AI Risk Manager: A Complete Roadmap

The roadmap to becoming an AI Risk Manager: model risk, validation, the NIST AI RMF, the certifications, and the path from analyst to manager.

A free career roadmap from GRC Careers · AGJ, the AI governance job board
Read the latest version, and browse live AI Risk Manager jobs, at **ai-governance-jobs.com/guides/how-to-become-an-ai-risk-manager**

An **AI Risk Manager** owns the framework that keeps an organization's AI and models from causing financial, legal, or reputational harm. Think model risk management, but extended to machine learning and generative AI.

WHAT THE ROLE DOES

- Builds and runs the AI/model risk management framework (inventory, tiering, controls)
- Oversees **model validation** and ongoing monitoring for drift and bias
- Sets risk appetite and escalation paths for AI use
- Reports model risk to executives, audit, and regulators

FRAMEWORKS & FOUNDATIONS

NIST AI RMF, **SR 11-7** (model risk management guidance, financial services), **ISO/IEC 42001**, and enterprise risk management (ERM) fundamentals. A strong quantitative comfort level helps, since you'll challenge model assumptions.

CERTIFICATIONS

Risk-focused credentials carry weight here: **CRISC** is the GRC standard; **FRM** or **PRM** for the quantitative-risk side; plus AI-specific certs like IAPP AIGP. Full details and salary data are in the GRC Certifications Guide.

THE PATH

1. **Master risk fundamentals** — ERM, model risk, and the NIST AI RMF.
2. **Get hands-on** — validate a sample model and document its risks end to end.
3. **Certify** — CRISC, then FRM or AIGP depending on your industry.
4. **Grow into management** — most AI Risk Managers come up through risk analyst or model validation roles.
5. **Apply — browse live AI Risk Manager roles on GRC Careers**; related titles: Model Risk Manager, AI Risk Lead, Responsible AI Risk Manager.

WHY IT'S WORTH IT

As regulators (and boards) demand accountability for AI decisions, the person who owns AI/model risk becomes essential, and the compensation reflects it.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is AI Risk Manager the same as Model Risk Manager?

They overlap heavily. Model Risk Manager is the established (often finance) role; AI Risk Manager extends it to machine learning and generative AI, adding bias, drift, and AI-specific regulation.

What certifications matter for AI risk?

CRISC for GRC, FRM or PRM for quantitative risk, and AI-specific credentials like the IAPP AIGP. NIST AI RMF and SR 11-7 are key frameworks.

Where can I find AI Risk Manager jobs?

Browse live AI Risk Manager and model-risk roles on GRC Careers (ai-governance-jobs.com).
