# **Table of Contents**

Overview	ix
Course Schedule	xiii
SECTION 1	
Introduction	
Developing a Reviewer's Mentality	1
Part 1. Role of the Reviewer	
Preview Part 1	5
Defining Review	9
Why Clients Need Reviews	12
Distinguishing Reviewer from Appraiser	13
Overview of the Review Process	18
Reviewer's Focus	21
Professional Perspective	23
Review Part 1	25
Digging Deeper	27
Self-Study Review Quiz	29
Part 2. Reviewer Competency	
Preview Part 2	33
Overview	35
Reviewer Aptitude and Review Proficiency	36
Standards and Ethics Requirements	38
Enhancing Review Skill Sets	47
Review Competency—Applications	48
Review Part 2	53
Self-Study Review Quiz	55

## **SECTION 2**

Part 3. Review Regulatory Environment	
Preview Part 3	59
Reviewing the Past	61
Laws and Regulations Affecting Appraise	s and Reviewers65
Review Part 3	
Self-Study Review Quiz	75
Part 4. Skill Sharpener #1	
Preview Part 4	79
Skill Sharpener Exercises 4.1-4.20	81
Review Part 4	
SECTION 3	
Part 5. Review Assignment—Identification	
Preview Part 5	109
Overview of the Review Process	111
Before Agreeing to Perform the Assignme	nt 113
Step 1: Identification of the Problem	115
Review Part 5	125
Self-Study Review Quiz	127
Part 6. Review Assignment—Scope of Work	
Preview Part 6	131
Reviewer's Scope of Work	133
Analyzing Key Inputs	136

## **SECTION 4**

	Preview Part 7	151
	Applying the Reviewer's Research and Analyses	153
	Tests of Reasonableness	166
	Reviewer's Framework for Review Opinions	172
	Review Part 7	173
	Self-Study Review Quiz	175
Par	t 8. Reviewer's Opinions and Reasoning	
	Preview Part 8	179
	Review of the Appraiser's Analyses, Opinions, and Conclusions	181
	Application of Step 4	185
	Review Part 8	207
	Self-Study Review Quiz	209
SECT	ION 5	
Par	t 9. Reviewing the Appraiser's Report	
Par	rt 9. Reviewing the Appraiser's Report  Preview Part 9	213
Par		
Par	Preview Part 9  Transitioning from Development to Reporting  Developing Reasons for Disagreement	215
Par	Preview Part 9	215
Par	Preview Part 9  Transitioning from Development to Reporting  Developing Reasons for Disagreement	215 222 225
Par	Preview Part 9  Transitioning from Development to Reporting  Developing Reasons for Disagreement  Review Part 9	
	Preview Part 9	
	Preview Part 9	
	Preview Part 9 Transitioning from Development to Reporting Developing Reasons for Disagreement Review Part 9 Digging Deeper Self-Study Review Quiz	
	Preview Part 9  Transitioning from Development to Reporting  Developing Reasons for Disagreement  Review Part 9  Digging Deeper  Self-Study Review Quiz  Pt 10. Reviewer's Own Opinion of Value  Preview Part 10	
	Preview Part 9 Transitioning from Development to Reporting Developing Reasons for Disagreement Review Part 9 Digging Deeper Self-Study Review Quiz Tt 10. Reviewer's Own Opinion of Value Preview Part 10 It All Starts with Scope of Work	
	Preview Part 9  Transitioning from Development to Reporting  Developing Reasons for Disagreement  Review Part 9  Digging Deeper  Self-Study Review Quiz  Pt 10. Reviewer's Own Opinion of Value  Preview Part 10  It All Starts with Scope of Work  Reviewer's Development and Reporting Process	

## **SECTION 6**

## Part 11. Reviewer's Report

	Preview Part 11	249
	General Thoughts	251
	USPAP Requirements for Reviews	
	SVP Requirements for Reviews	255
	Form Review Reports	
	Narrative Review Reports	266
	Oral Review Reports	268
	Review Part 11	271
	Self-Study Review Quiz	273
Pa	art 12. Skill Sharpener #2	
	Preview Part 12	277
	Challenge: Reviewer's Scope of Work Discussion	279
	Challenge: Create a Template for a Narrative Review Report	288
	Review Part 12	295
SECT	TION 7	
Pa	art 13. Reviews Involving Complex Properties	
	Preview Part 13	297
	Characteristics of a Complex Property	299
	Examples of Complex Properties	300
	Regional and super-regional shopping centers	300
	Lodging facilities	301
	Healthcare facilities	301
	Gas stations and C-stores	302
	Golf courses	302
	Religious facilities	
	Special-use industrial facilities	303
	Residential and nonresidential subdivisions	304
	Conservation easements	304
	Undeveloped land in transitional areas	
	Timeshares	305
	Air rights	306
	Review Part 13	311
	Self-Study Review Quiz	212

## Part 14. Challenging Review Assignments

	Preview Part 14	317
	Suspected Fraud	319
	Comparing Two or More Appraisals	321
	Reviewing a Review	324
	Reviewing for Litigation Support	326
	Review Part 14	329
	Self-Study Review Quiz	331
SECT	TION 8	
Pa	rt 15. Reviewer-Appraiser Communication	
	Preview Part 15	335
	Why Communication Matters	337
	How Communication Works	
	Suggestions for Reviewers	
	Challenge: Drafting a Memo to the Appraiser	
	Review Part 15	
	Self-Study Review Quiz	349
Pa	rt 16. Skill Sharpener #3	
	Preview Part 16	353
	Disclosure of Assignment Conditions	355
	Record Retention	362
	Part 16 Review	365
	Digging Deeper	
	Self-Study Review Quiz	369
Pa	rt 17. Exam Content Review	
	Preparing for the Exam	373
	Guidance on Taking the Final Exam	
	Test-Taking Strategies	
	Content Covered in the Course	374
	Self-Study Practice Test	377
SECT	TION 9	
Pa	rt 18. Course Review	
	Instructor's Review—PowerPoint	om
	Final Question and Answer Session	

#### **Final Exam**

## **DOWNLOADS** (See the link provided during registration)

Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA) as amended by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (redlined version)

Excerpts from *Appraising the Appraisal: The Art of Appraisal Review*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., by Richard C. Sorenson, MAI (Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2010)

- Appendix B: Resources for Reviewers
- Appendix C: Sample Review Materials
  - Fannie Mae Form 2000/Freddie Mac Form 1052: One Unit Residential Field Review Report (March 2005)
  - Fannie Mae Form 2000A/Freddie Mac Form 1072: Two- to Four-Unit Residential Appraisal Field Review Report (March 2005)
  - Sample Appraisal Review Form for a Commercial Property
  - Sample Checklist for Reviewing Narrative Appraisal Reports
  - Sample Appraiser Performance Rating Form
- Appendix D: Further Reading
  - "Appraisal Review in a Litigation Support Role" by Jack P. Friedman,
     MAI, PhD, CPA, and Nicholas Ordway, PhD, JD, originally published in the
     January 2000 issue of *The Appraisal Journal*

Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines, December 2, 2010

Appraisal Institute Standards of Valuation Practice (also available on the Appraisal Institute website under Professional Practice; look under Ethics and Standards, click on Standards of Professional Practice)

"Common Errors and Issues in Review" (also available on the Appraisal Institute website under Professional Practice; look under Professional Practice Documents, click on Common Appraisal Errors and Issues)

# Overview

## **Course Description**

Review Theory—General is the fundamental review course that all reviewers should have in their educational background. It is a required course for individuals pursuing the Appraisal Institute General Review Designation (Al-GRS – Appraisal Institute General Review Specialist).

At the core of this course is the *review process*. Participants embark on an in-depth exploration of the seven steps outlined in this process. To be a reviewer, an appraiser must learn how to develop opinions of completeness, accuracy, adequacy, relevance, and reasonableness relative to the work under review. These opinions must be refined through tests of reasonableness to develop reconciled opinions of appropriateness and credibility. By taking this course, participants will gain invaluable confidence in the fundamentals of review.

## **Learning Enhancements**

The course has been designed with a variety of elements to enhance your learning experience.

- **Preview.** To give you a taste of what is to come, each part begins with a *Preview* page, which includes a brief overview of the content, learning objectives to consider as you move through the content, and learning tips that will assist you in understanding the information presented.
- Learning Objectives. Each learning objective covers information you need to fully understand the concepts in the course. Look them over before the part begins so that you have a frame of reference as you move through the material. At the end of each part, reread the objectives. Are you able to do what is stated? If not, this is the time to ask your instructor for help or review the concepts that you do not understand.
- Examples and Problems. Supplementing the discussions are examples, problems, and Review Reality Checks to help you visualize and practice what you are learning.
- **Fill-in-the-Blanks.** It is a proven fact that when you write something down, you are more apt to remember it. The course handbook includes various problems and discussion questions. Be sure to write out your solutions and annotate the handbook as much as possible. These additions will be a valuable resource as you prepare for the final exam.

- Review. Each part concludes with a review, which includes the learning objectives and may include key terms and concepts that have been covered. Also, where applicable, we've provided recommended readings from textbooks that will reinforce what you have learned in class.
- Self-Study Review Quizzes and Practice Test. A short quiz is included at the end of most parts, and a practice test is included at the end of Part 17. The questions are similar to the types of questions you might find on the final exam. By answering these multiple-choice questions, you will find out whether you know the information covered in that part. The review quizzes and practice test are intended for self-study, and answers are found in the solutions booklet.
- Digging Deeper. Digging Deeper information goes beyond the scope of the course and is not intended to be covered in class. It is not tested directly on the course exam; however, appraisers should be familiar with it, as well as with all other material contained in the course handbook, whether or not it is presented in class.

#### **Class Policies**

- 100% attendance is required. No exceptions.
- Limit use of computers and wireless devices to classroom projects.
- Communicate with business associates during break time instead of class time.
- During class, do not read materials that are not used in class, such as news, email, and local media.
- Silence cell phones and other communication devices.
- Use recording devices only if prior permission has been granted.
- If attending a class offering, refrain from ongoing conversations with those seated near you and other distracting behavior.

#### **General Information**

- Laptop computer. This course includes writing exercises. Each participant will need his or her own laptop with word processing software.
- Calculator. A financial calculator is required. The accepted model used in the course is the HP-12C. Other calculators may be used if participants know how to operate them. No class time will be used to cover the operation of other calculators. For additional help, go to the "Using a Financial Calculator" section of the Appraisal Institute's website: www.appraisalinstitute.org. Look under "Education," and then look under "Al Education Resources." Click on "Using a Financial Calculator."
- Important Note: Laptops, cellular phones, tablets, iPads, wearable technology (smart watch, Apple Watch, Google Glass, etc.), and other devices that can store data or connect to the Internet are NOT permitted during the exam. In addition, all watches, wallets, bags, and purses must be removed and stored out of reach prior to taking the exam.
- **Breaks.** There will be two 10-minute breaks during each half-day session unless noted otherwise by the course sponsor. The lunch break is one hour.
- Attendance sheets will be distributed during each half-day session to verify your attendance during all sessions. 100% attendance is required.
- Certificates of completion may be downloaded after completion of the course, and attendance during the entire course is required.

#### **USPAP** References

All references to the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) are taken from the 2020–2021 edition, effective until December 31, 2023 (Washington, D.C.: The Appraisal Foundation).

#### **Recommended Documents and Texts**

- Appraisal Institute Standards of Valuation Practice (SVP)
- Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, current edition
- Review Theory and Procedures: A Systematic Approach to Review in Real Property Appraisal. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2015.

- Richard C. Sorenson, MAI. Appraising the Appraisal: The Art of Appraisal Review,
   2nd ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2010.
- The Appraisal of Real Estate, 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2020.

#### Other Useful Texts

- The Dictionary of Real Estate Appraisal, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2022.
- Charles B. Akerson, MAI, and David C. Lennhoff, MAI, SRA, Al-GRS, Editor.
   Capitalization Theory and Techniques Study Guide, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2009.
- Charles B. Akerson, MAI. *The Appraiser's Workbook*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 1996 [out of print but available through online sources].
- Stephen F. Fanning, MAI. Market Analysis for Real Estate: Concepts and Applications in Valuation and Highest and Best Use, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2014.
- Don M. Emerson, Jr., MAI, SRA. Subdivision Valuation, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2017.
- Stephanie C. Coleman, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS. Scope of Work, 3<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Appraisal Institute, 2020.

### **Downloads**

- Supplementary items that are not included in the print materials are available by download. These are on a secure link connected to the registration process.
- These files should be on your hard drive in an easy-to-locate folder. You may also print copies for class, but having the files available electronically will facilitate your work.

#### **Exam**

75 multiple-choice questions