

Discussion Questions for Week 1

A "threaded discussion" is a discussion forum that allows students to respond to questions posted by the professor (original responses), which can then be read by other users who add their own comments in response (secondary postings). Unlike chat rooms and other "real-time" interaction forums, threaded discussions do not require different users to be logged on at the same time.

Discussion questions are assigned each week. **Original responses to these questions must be posted by Thursday at 11:59PM.** Original responses must be at least **250 words** and must incorporate concepts from the lectures and assigned readings.

Secondary Responses/Postings: Each student must post **two or more** secondary responses to other students' postings **for each discussion question.** Secondary responses are due by **11:59PM on the Monday following the week in which the questions were assigned.** They must be a minimum of **150 words** and, like original responses, should incorporate concepts from the lectures and assigned readings. Students are encouraged to embark on interactive discussions that go beyond the minimum number of secondary postings.

Although the discussion board is expected to be student-driven, professors will be participating in the discussions as well.

DQ 1.1: Some people argue that compliance programs enhance operations, improve quality of care, and even promote healthcare organizations' financial success. Why might someone make these arguments? Do you agree with them? Are there any downsides to developing a robust compliance program?

DQ 1.2: A subject of significant debate within many corporations and between corporate America and enforcement agencies is the place and status of corporate compliance professionals within the corporate organizational chart. Government would like to see the compliance function in a top tier of an entity's hierarchy, perhaps at the vice president level, with direct access to the board and CEO. In addition, government recommends against compliance professionals reporting to either the General Counsel or the Chief Financial Officer. By contrast, many corporations prefer having compliance at a director level position, reporting to the General Counsel, with periodic appearances before the Board's Audit/Compliance Committee. This is also the position taken by the American Bar Association. Do Caremark, the OIG Compliance Guidelines, or the Federal Sentencing Guidelines provide any guidance to you on this issue? Based upon your understanding of the law and its rationale, what recommendations would you make regarding the place of compliance professionals within the organizational structure?