GAICC

ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation

Course Curriculum

This curriculum defines what is taught, in what order, to what cognitive depth, and how each module traces to ISO/IEC 42001:2023. It is the controlling document for the instructor slide set, the class handouts and the student workbook. Every factual claim made in any of those artifacts is governed by the Standard Fact Register.

Field	Value
Document ID	GAICC-CUR-FND42001-001
Version	1.1
Issued	12 October 2026
Credential	ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation
Credential tier	Tier 1
Modules	8 (M0 to M7)
Contact hours	16
Self paced video	About 10 hours of narrated video, measured from the narration script; final audio may differ slightly. Video viewing time is stated separately from the 16 contact hours; the contact hour requirement is unchanged.
Standard	ISO/IEC 42001:2023, First edition, 2023-12
Fact authority	GAICC-QMS-FR-42001-001 (Standard Fact Register v1.0)
Module architecture	GAICC-QMS-MM-42001-001 v1.0

This curriculum contains no fee information. Examination and membership fees are published in the Candidate Handbook and on the certification body website.

1. Purpose and scope

This document specifies the ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation curriculum. It states the learning outcomes for every module, the clauses and Annex A controls each module covers, and the cognitive level at which the material is taught and assessed.

It exists so that three things stay aligned: what is taught, what is examined, and what the standard actually says. Where any course artifact departs from this curriculum, the artifact is a defect.

2. Audience and prerequisites

Anyone needing a working understanding of ISO/IEC 42001: managers, product owners, compliance and risk staff, procurement, and those preparing to join an implementation team.

Prerequisite. No formal prerequisite. Familiarity with how organisations use AI is helpful but not required.

3. Learning architecture

The three implementer track credentials are supersets of one another, not a chain of prerequisites carrying forward untouched material.

Credential	Modules	Treatment
Foundation	M0 to M7	Written at Foundation depth
Lead Implementer	M0 to M16	M0 to M7 rewritten at implementer depth, then M8 to M16
Senior Lead Implementer	M0 to M23	M0 to M16 rewritten at senior depth, then M17 to M23

Why the material is rewritten rather than reused. A module taught at three levels is three different modules. Foundation M3 describes the structure of the standard; Lead Implementer M3 uses that structure to locate requirements and build a clause to artifact map; Senior Lead Implementer M3 interprets the standard where its text admits more than one reading. Sharing one file between credentials would flatten those differences, and it was the mechanism by which factual defects propagated across all six GAICC 42001 credentials. No module file is shared between credentials.

Depth rule for this credential. Awareness and comprehension. The learner must be able to state what the standard requires, why an AI management system differs from other management systems, and where each requirement sits. They are not yet expected to design or judge an implementation.

Outcome verbs used at this level. explain, describe, identify, classify, illustrate

4. Delivery

Property	Value
Contact hours	16 hours
Self paced video	About 10 hours of narrated video, measured from the narration script; final audio may differ slightly. Video viewing time is stated separately from the 16 contact hours; the contact hour requirement is unchanged.
Module count	8

Property	Value
Delivery modes	Instructor led by a GAICC Authorised Training Partner or Certified Instructor; GAICC self paced course; or equivalent hours from a GAICC recognised institution
Materials per module	Instructor slide deck, class handout with notes, workbook section, module quiz
Formative assessment	One 20 item quiz per module, 40 minutes, 15 single answer and 5 multi select

5. Cognitive level and assessment alignment

The examination blueprint mirrors this distribution. Formative quizzes sit at the same cognitive level as the examination they prepare for, never above it.

Cognitive level	Share of examination
Remember	15%
Understand	35%
Apply	30%
Analyse	15%
Evaluate	5%

Difficulty band. easy to hard, centre of gravity moderate. Permitted difficulty vocabulary is easy, moderate, hard and very-hard. No other word is used anywhere a candidate can see.

6. Module schedule

Module	Title	Clauses	Annex
M0	Programme Orientation	n/a	n/a
M1	Why ISO/IEC 42001 Exists	1	n/a
M2	How Certification Works	n/a	n/a
M3	Structure, Terms and Definitions	2, 3	A, B, C, D
M4	Context of the Organisation	4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	n/a
M5	Leadership and AI Governance	5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3	A.2, A.3
M6	Responsible and Ethical AI	4.2, 6.1.4	A.5, A.9
M7	Applied Case Workshop and Foundation Consolidation	4, 5, 6.1.4	A.2, A.3, A.5, A.9

7. Module specifications

Each specification below states the module title at this credential level, the clauses and controls it covers, the learning outcomes, the core content, and the forward looking material that keeps the module current.

M0. Programme Orientation

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	Not clause specific
Annex A controls	Not control specific
Theme	orientation

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Describe the structure, duration and assessment of the Foundation credential
- Identify the exam format, duration and pass mark
- Locate the Exam Content Outline and explain what it governs

Core content

- How the credential is structured and assessed
- Exam format, cut score, and what the Exam Content Outline governs
- How to use the workbook, handouts and toolkit together
- The Standard Fact Register and why every factual claim is traceable
- Learner conduct, appeals and recertification in outline

M1. Why ISO/IEC 42001 Exists

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	1
Annex A controls	Not control specific
Theme	case for an AIMS

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Explain what an AI management system is and what problem it solves
- State the scope of ISO/IEC 42001 as set out in Clause 1
- Describe why AI systems present governance challenges that conventional controls do not address
- Identify the place of ISO/IEC 42001 within the ISO management system family

Core content

- What problem an AI management system solves that existing controls do not
- Scope of ISO/IEC 42001 (Clause 1) and what it deliberately excludes

- Why AI needs a management system: opacity, drift, data dependence, autonomy, distributed accountability
- The management system family and the harmonised structure (formerly Annex SL)
- The regulatory and assurance landscape the standard sits inside

Forward looking content

- Why conformity with ISO/IEC 42001 demonstrates organisational readiness, not conformity with any law
- Why a management system approach outlasts any single regulation

M2. How Certification Works

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	Not clause specific
Annex A controls	Not control specific
Theme	certification mechanics

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Describe the certification lifecycle from application to recertification
- Distinguish accreditation from certification, and organisational certification from personnel certification
- Explain the purpose of Stage 1 and Stage 2 audits
- Identify what a major and a minor nonconformity mean

Core content

- How management system certification works: accreditation, certification body, audit stages
- ISO/IEC 42006 and requirements for bodies auditing AI management systems
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 audits, surveillance and recertification
- Nonconformity grading and corrective action
- The distinction between organisational certification and personnel certification

Forward looking content

- ISO/IEC 42006 and what it changes for certification bodies auditing an AIMS
- Why the auditor competence question is unusually hard for AI

M3. Structure, Terms and Definitions

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	2, 3
Annex A controls	A, B, C, D
Theme	the standard's architecture and vocabulary

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- State that Clause 2 contains exactly one normative reference and name it
- Distinguish a normative reference from a SOURCE attribution and from a Bibliography entry
- State that Clause 3 defines 26 terms as a flat list and identify the two terms original to ISO/IEC 42001
- Identify which annexes are normative and which are informative
- State that Annex A contains 38 controls across 9 control clauses with 10 objectives

Core content

- Clause 2: exactly one normative reference, ISO/IEC 22989:2022
- The difference between a normative reference, a SOURCE attribution and a Bibliography entry
- Clause 3: 26 defined terms, 3.1 to 3.26, a flat list with no groups
- The four SOURCE attributed terms and the two terms original to ISO/IEC 42001
- Annex status: A and B normative, C and D informative
- Annex A: 38 controls, 9 control clauses, 10 objectives, identifiers A.2.2 to A.10.4
- The harmonised structure and Clauses 4 to 10

Forward looking content

- How the ISO/IEC 22989 vocabulary evolves and why 42001 inherits it by reference rather than reprinting it
- The wider standards family: ISO/IEC 23894:2023 for risk, ISO/IEC 42005:2025 for impact assessment, ISO/IEC 42006:2025 for certification bodies

Fact critical module. This module carries facts that were previously taught incorrectly across GAICC materials. Linter rules NR-01, NR-02, NR-03, TM-01, TM-02, TM-04, AX-01, AX-02, AX-03, AX-05 apply. Every artifact for this module must pass the fact linter before release.

M4. Context of the Organisation

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4
Annex A controls	Not control specific
Theme	scope and context

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Describe what Clause 4.1 requires, including the climate change determination
- Identify typical interested parties for an AI management system and their requirements
- Explain what determines the scope of an AIMS under Clause 4.3
- Describe the AI roles an organisation can hold and why role affects applicability

Core content

- Clause 4.1 external and internal issues, including the climate change determination
- Clause 4.2 interested parties and their relevant requirements
- Clause 4.3 determining the scope of the AI management system
- Clause 4.4 the AI management system itself and its processes

- AI roles as NOTE 1 to Clause 4.1 lists them: AI provider, AI producer, AI customer (including AI user), AI partner, AI subject, relevant authority
- How role determines which requirements and controls apply

Forward looking content

M5. Leadership and AI Governance

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3
Annex A controls	A.2, A.3
Theme	leadership, policy, roles

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Describe what Clause 5.1 requires of top management
- State what an AI policy must contain under Clause 5.2
- Explain how roles, responsibilities and authorities are assigned under Clause 5.3
- Identify the Annex A controls that support leadership requirements

Core content

- Clause 5.1 leadership and commitment
- Clause 5.2 the AI policy
- Clause 5.3 roles, responsibilities and authorities
- Controls A.2.2 AI policy, A.2.3 alignment with other organisational policies, A.2.4 review of the AI policy
- Controls A.3.2 AI roles and responsibilities, A.3.3 reporting of concerns
- The governing body (3.22) and its relationship to top management (3.3)

Forward looking content

- Governing body oversight of AI, as ISO/IEC 38507:2022 describes it

M6. Responsible and Ethical AI

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	4.2, 6.1.4
Annex A controls	A.5, A.9
Theme	impacts, values, responsible use

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Explain the difference between an ethical principle and a management system requirement
- Describe what an AI system impact assessment considers under Clause 6.1.4

- Identify the Annex A controls covering impact assessment and responsible use
- Describe the common trustworthiness properties and why they can conflict

Core content

- What responsible AI means inside a management system, as distinct from ethical aspiration
- Clause 6.1.4 AI system impact assessment as a requirement
- Controls A.5.2 to A.5.5 on assessing impacts to individuals, groups and societies
- Controls A.9.2 to A.9.4 on responsible use of AI systems
- Fairness, transparency, explainability, robustness and safety as engineering properties, not slogans
- Where ISO/IEC 23894 and ISO/IEC 42005 supply method

Forward looking content

- How ISO/IEC 42005:2025 guidance relates to the Clause 6.1.4 impact assessment
- Why fairness cannot be satisfied by a single metric

M7. Applied Case Workshop and Foundation Consolidation

Coverage	Reference
ISO/IEC 42001 clauses	4, 5, 6.1.4
Annex A controls	A.2, A.3, A.5, A.9
Theme	consolidation

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the learner can:

- Apply Clauses 4 and 5 to a described organisation and produce an outline scope and policy position
- Identify the interested parties and their requirements for the case organisation
- Recognise nonconformities in a described AIMS against the clauses studied
- Consolidate Foundation knowledge in preparation for the certification examination

Core content

- End to end application of everything covered so far to a single worked organisation
- From context and scope through policy and roles to a first impact assessment
- Identifying where the organisation is not yet conformant and what it would take

Forward looking content

- A case set drawn from current deployment patterns including generative and assistive systems

8. Assessment

Property	Value
Formative	One 20 item quiz per module, 8 quizzes in total
Quiz format	15 single answer multiple choice with four options, and 5 multi select with five options and two or three correct
Quiz duration	40 minutes, two minutes per item
Quiz attempts	10
Summative	One certification examination governed by the Exam Content Outline
Blueprint	The examination mirrors the cognitive distribution in section 5
Result	Provisional result on screen at completion; the Certification Decision Authority confirms the certification decision within 72 hours

9. Factual governance

Every factual claim in every artifact built from this curriculum is governed by GAICC-QMS-FR-42001-001 (Standard Fact Register v1.0), which is verified against the licensed text of ISO/IEC 42001:2023.

The following facts are the ones most often stated incorrectly in AI governance training, including previously in GAICC materials. They are restated here so that no artifact built from this curriculum can repeat them.

Fact	Correct position
Normative references	Clause 2 lists exactly one: ISO/IEC 22989:2022
ISO 9000	Does not appear anywhere in ISO/IEC 42001:2023
Defined terms	26 terms, 3.1 to 3.26, a flat list with no groups
Annex A controls	38 controls, 9 control clauses, 10 objectives
Annex status	A and B are normative; C and D are informative
Control identifiers	A.2.2 to A.10.4; A.6.1 contains only A.6.1.2 and A.6.1.3

Instructors must not supplement these facts from memory or from secondary sources. Where a learner question cannot be answered from the Fact Register, it is escalated rather than answered speculatively.

10. Revision history

Version	Date	Change
1.0	25 August 2026	First issue. Establishes the superset module architecture, restates the corrected fact base, and adds forward looking content to every module.
1.1	12 October 2026	Reissued to match the corrected Foundation course. The curriculum names no law: the forward looking content on the EU AI Act, its role taxonomy and its impact assessment obligations is removed or reworded, and governing body oversight now cites ISO/IEC 38507:2022. The harmonised structure is described as formerly Annex SL. The AI roles

Version	Date	Change
		follow NOTE 1 to Clause 4.1, including AI customer (including AI user). The wider standards family is cited with dates. The result wording matches the Examination Content Outline. Self paced video viewing time (about 10 hours, measured from the narration script) is stated separately from the 16 contact hours, which are unchanged. Module numbering, titles and outcomes are otherwise unchanged.