Christopher T. Owens, MBA, CFE

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ACCOUNTING & FINANCE LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Finance & Accounting Executive and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) with 10+ years of experience leading accounting operations, financial reporting, compliance, internal controls, budgeting, and strategic financial management across complex and highly regulated organizations. Proven ability to lead month-end and year-end close processes, strengthen governance frameworks, direct audit and compliance activities, and provide executive leadership across diverse funding sources, sponsored programs, clinical operations, and multi-entity environments. Trusted advisor to executive leadership on financial strategy, operational performance, risk management, and organizational growth. Proven track record of leveraging financial systems, data analytics, automation, and emerging AI technologies to improve reporting efficiency, strengthen decision-making, and enhance operational performance.

CORE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

Accounting Operations & Financial Reporting
Month-End & Year-End Close Management
Internal Controls & Financial Governance
Audit, Compliance & Risk Management
Executive Financial Reporting
Multi-Entity Financial Management
Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A)
Budgeting, Forecasting & Strategic Planning
Sponsored Programs & Grants Management
Clinical & Operational Finance Leadership
Capital Planning & Resource Allocation
Financial Systems & Process Improvement
Data Analytics & AI-Enabled Decision Support

Systems: QuickBooks Online, Workday, Adaptive Planning, SAP, Oracle, Microsoft Power BI, Tableau

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Central Florida — Orlando, FL
Director of Finance, Accounting, & Compliance | 2024–2026

- Led finance, accounting, and compliance functions for the College of Health Professions & Sciences, providing financial leadership across academic, clinical, research, auxiliary, and foundation-related operations supporting over $40M in annual activity across 13 departments and programs.
- Developed and monitored key financial and operational performance indicators (KPIs) for college and clinical operations, providing leadership with actionable insights into revenue cycle performance, productivity, collections, profitability, and resource utilization.

- Served as the primary financial and operational leader for the college's clinical enterprise, overseeing financial reporting, capital planning, investment oversight, revenue cycle performance, budgeting, and long-term financial strategy.
- Oversaw month-end and year-end close processes, ensuring accuracy of financial reporting, reconciliations, accruals, and financial statement preparation.
- Directed financial governance and accounting oversight across operational, auxiliary, clinical, sponsored programs, and foundation-related activities.
- Developed and maintained internal control frameworks, strengthening financial accountability and compliance with institutional and regulatory requirements.
- Partnered with executive leadership to provide financial reporting, forecasting, and strategic analysis supporting operational and capital planning decisions.
- Led financial audit, compliance, and risk management activities across complex funding environments, coordinating responses to internal, external, sponsor, and regulatory reviews.
- Oversaw financial stewardship, compliance, reporting, and strategic financial management for sponsored research portfolios, grant-funded initiatives, and restricted funding sources.
- Managed and developed finance and accounting staff while driving process improvements that enhance reporting accuracy and operational efficiency.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture — Knoxville, TN
Assistant Director of Finance, Accounting, & Compliance | 2022–2024

- Directed finance, accounting, and compliance activities supporting operating, research, and grant-funded portfolios exceeding $100M annually.
- Served as the financial leader for sponsored programs administration, overseeing financial management, compliance, reporting, and stewardship of federal, state, private, and foundation-funded grants.
- Managed complex funding environments encompassing operating funds, sponsored research, gifts, restricted funds, and designated accounts while ensuring compliance with institutional, sponsor, and regulatory requirements.
- Oversaw financial reporting, account reconciliations, funding compliance, and month-end/year-end close processes across multiple departments, grants, and funding sources, ensuring reporting accuracy and proper accounting treatment.
- Led financial audit and compliance activities, coordinating responses to internal, external, sponsor, and regulatory audits while strengthening internal controls and financial governance.
- Partnered with executive leadership, principal investigators, and department heads to support strategic resource allocation, financial planning, and long-term operational decision-making.
- Led financial analysis, forecasting, and strategic planning initiatives used by executive leadership for resource allocation and operational decision-making.
- Developed reporting tools and financial dashboards that improved transparency, accountability, and executive decision support.

Sponsored Projects Accountant | 2019–2022

- Managed post-award accounting, financial reporting, and compliance for a diverse portfolio of federal, state, local, and privately funded sponsored projects.

- Performed account reconciliations, financial analysis, and expenditure monitoring to ensure compliance with sponsor requirements, institutional policies, and applicable regulations.
- Prepared and reviewed financial reports, sponsor invoices, and funding analyses for principal investigators, sponsors, and executive leadership.
- Supported grant closeout activities, financial audits, and post-award compliance reviews while maintaining reporting accuracy and stewardship of sponsored funds.
- Partnered with principal investigators and departmental leadership to provide financial guidance related to grant administration, budgeting, and funding utilization.

State of Tennessee Department of Revenue — Knoxville, TN
Tax Auditor III | 2015–2019

- Conducted complex financial audits and compliance examinations across multiple industries, evaluating financial records, internal controls, and regulatory compliance.
- Analyzed financial statements, accounting records, and operational processes to identify compliance risks, reporting discrepancies, and process improvement opportunities.
- Interpreted state tax regulations and accounting guidance to support audit findings and ensure consistent application of regulatory requirements.
- Presented audit findings and recommendations to business owners, financial representatives, and management personnel.
- Mentored junior auditors and contributed to training initiatives supporting audit quality and professional development.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration
Middle Tennessee State University

Bachelor of Science in Accounting
University of Tennessee

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
QuickBooks Online Advanced ProAdvisor
QuickBooks Online ProAdvisor
QuickBooks Online Payroll Certification
Intuit Academy Bookkeeping Certification