



**GRADUATE ACCOUNTING AND COMMERCE CENTRE**

**DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STUDIES**

**ACCG840: PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING**

**Lecturer**

**Nidal Danoun**

**UNIT OUTLINE**  
**New Updated**

**Semester 2, 2006**

## **Unit Objectives**

The objective of this unit is to provide an overview of the process of personal financial planning and to equip students with the basic skills necessary to analyse an individual's situation. Specifically, on completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate:-

1. The ability to evaluate issues in the context of knowledge gained and to apply developed skills in problem solving for financial planning scenarios.
2. An application of some of the basic skills required in assessing an individual's financial position
3. An understanding of the relevance of taxes and investments and their application in personal financial planning.
4. The ability to engage in a meaningful discussion of the importance of superannuation in the provision of income in retirement.
5. An appreciation of risk analysis.
6. An ability to present independent conclusions based on an analysis of an individual's financial position.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

### **Teaching Format**

There will be eleven lectures of 3 hours, a mid semester exam and a final exam. Assessment will also include a group project.

The lectures will be held on Monday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm and students will be required to do some reading and preparatory work prior to each lecture.

Students will be required to read the relevant chapters of the text before each lecture. All students will be assigned to present, jointly with another student, part of a unit topic, to the rest of the group at some stage throughout the course. Each presentation should last for 30 minutes, following which students will have opportunity to question the presenters. These presentations will count towards the unit's assessment.

Emphasis in class will be given to real life experiences and to the areas of most appropriate practical consideration raised in the material studied for the week. Worked examples will also be discussed and students will have opportunity for other involvement in class presentations and class discussions.

The final exam will be on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 (2-5PM)** and Mid term class tests will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 2-5 PM**. Mid term test will be held in room **E6A133** and the final exam will be held at the regular lecture place at **E5A116**.

The group projects will be collected on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2006**.

This group project will require the written presentation of an analysis of a specific case study. The projects will be performed in groups of no more than 4 students and the cover sheet must be typed and contain the names of each of the students in the group. As indicated, that project must be submitted by **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 no later than 2.15 PM**.

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The assessment tasks will provide opportunity for students to present their views on various aspects of financial planning (Class Presentations) and to analyse case studies and develop strategies (Group Project and Final Exam). The class tests provide students the chance to gauge their progress in achieving the required outcomes as the course progresses.

## Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of this unit are that students will be able to:

1. Understand, apply and explain the workings of the Australian taxation system, specifically in relation to individuals and superannuation funds.
2. Indicate the ability to analyse investment alternatives and present a valid argument for or against those alternatives.
3. Indicate an understanding of the impact of superannuation, compliance, social security and estate planning on the financial planning process.
4. Analyse case studies and develop strategies which are appropriate in achieving an individual's desired financial planning outcome.

## Unit Assessment

Mid Term test <b>18<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 (Room E6A133)</b>	20%
Group Class Presentation (lecture time)	10%
Group project – due <b>30<sup>th</sup> October, 2006</b>	10%
Final exam <b>6<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 (Room E5A116)</b>	60%

In order to pass this unit, you are required to:-

1. Obtain at least 30 marks out of 60 for the final exam; and
2. Obtain an overall mark of at least 50%.

## Classes & Lectures

All classes for the relevant semester (semester **2-2006**) will be held on **Monday 2-5 Pm** at **E5A116**.

**Mid term test will be held at E6A133**

### Lecturer

Nidal Danoun (email: [ndanoun@efs.mq.edu.au](mailto:ndanoun@efs.mq.edu.au)). As Nidal works full-time in running his own financial planning business, availability for consultation will be after lectures or by email.

**Please note when sending queries or questions via emails make sure that the subject line clearly states "ACCG840 Student".**

## Calculators

Non-programmable calculators will be allowed in the exams. However, any calculators capable of holding text will not be allowed.

## Text Books

CCH, Australian Master Financial Planning Guide **2005/06** (CCH)

Diana Beal/Warren McKeown, Personal Finance, **Wiley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition** (PF)

Unit Web Page: WebCT <http://online.mq.edu.au>

## Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings From Text
1	7.8.06	Intro to FP, Financial Maths & Introduction to Course & Assessments	Chs 1,2,3 (PF)
2	14.8.06	Income Tax	Ch 1(CCH) & Ch4 (PF)
3	21.08.06	CGT/Tax on Investments/Salary Packaging	Ch 2(CCH) & Ch4(PF)
4	28.08.06	Superannuation	Ch 4(CCH) & Ch 12(PF)
5	04.09.06	Self-Managed Superannuation	Ch 5(CCH) & Ch12 (PF)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings From Text
6	11.09.06	Retirement	Chs 15,16 (CCH) & Ch 12 (PF)
7	18.09.06	<b>Mid Term Test (Room E6A133)</b>	
<b>Mid Semester Break from 19<sup>th</sup> of September to 3<sup>rd</sup> of October</b>			
9	09.10.06	Shares, Hybrids, Fixed Interest, & Managed Funds	Chs 9,13(CCH) & Chs 5,6,7(PF)
10	16.10.06	Listed Property, Property & Gearing	Chs 11,12(CCH) & Chs 5,8,11 (PF)
11	23.10.06	Social Security	Ch 6 (CCH) & Ch 13 (PF)
12	30.10.06	Estate Planning, Insurance & Review	Ch 7,18(CCH) & Ch9.14, 15(PF)
13	6.11.06	Final Exam	

### Examination

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and special consideration process is available at:

<http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf>.

### Plagiarism

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own". Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the Handbook of Postgraduate Studies or on the web at:

<http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

### University Policy on Grading

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e. the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realise that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

For an explanation of the policy see

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUOnly/Issues/Guidelines2003.doc> or

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUOnly/Issues/detailedguidelines.doc>

### Student Support Services

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>