

MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

ACCG 852
Managerial Accounting

Semester 2, 2011

*Department of Accounting and Corporate
Governance*

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
UNIT GUIDE**

Year and Semester: 2011, Second Semester

Unit convenor: Amy Tung

Prerequisites: ACCG861 and ACCG860

Credit points: 3 credit points

Students in ACCG852 should read this unit guide carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This is a 3 credit point unit forming part of the Master of Accounting (Professional) or Master of Accounting (CPA Extension) program.

This unit examines how cost information is generated and used within organizations. To this end, a number of different costing and budgeting techniques are explained and demonstrated. As well as understanding the mechanics of each technique, it is important that students can recognise which technique is most appropriate for particular situations.

The unit provides a solid foundation in management accounting as a stand alone unit, or provides a conceptual basis for further study in another degree or as an elective in the CPA or CA programs.

This unit constitutes part of the core curriculum of studies required by CPA Australia and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

TEACHING STAFF

Convenor: Amy Tung

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Lecturer: James Lau

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Lecturer: Maria Dyball

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Lecturer: Lydia Walker

Location: E4A Level 2

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Lecturer: Frank Johnson
Location: E4A Level 2
Phone:
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CONSULTATION TIMES

Students should contact their individual lecturer (either via email or in person) to determine a mutually convenient time in which to hold any consultation, if required.

You are encouraged to seek help at a time that is convenient to you from a staff member teaching on this unit during their regular consultation hours. In special circumstances, an appointment may be made outside regular consultation hours. Staff will not conduct any consultations by email. You may, however, phone staff during their consultation hours.

In order to gain access to staff located at levels 1, 2 and 3 of building E4A during their consultation hours please ring the staff member from the phones available in the lobby (phone numbers of relevant staff members will be provided on Blackboard and are available next to the phones).

Students experiencing significant difficulties with any topic in the unit must seek assistance immediately.

CLASSES

This unit is structured around attendance at one 3 hour class per week. The class timetable can be found on the University web site <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>, with the following classes offered:

Class	Day	Time	Venue	Lecturer
1	Monday	9 am – 12 pm	E7B 200	Maria Dyball
2	Thursday	12 pm – 15 pm	E7B 200	Lydia Walker
3	Thursday	18 pm – 21 pm	C4A 318	Lydia Walker
4	Thursday	12 pm – 15 pm	C4A 318	Amy Tung
5	Thursday	15 pm – 18 pm	C4A 318	Amy Tung
6	Friday	9 am – 12 pm	E6A 131	Frank Johnson

You **MUST** attend only the class in which you are registered. In the event that you have to attend an alternative class for a particular week, you are required to notify the lecturer. Class attendance is highly recommended and expected.

Changes to classes can only be completed ONLINE during week 1. Changes will only be permitted if vacancies exist within classes. No further changes will be allowed after the end of Week 1. Please do not email or ask academic staff for class changes.

PRIZES

- Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance Prize for Excellence in ACCG852 Managerial Accounting.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Prescribed Text:

Langfield-Smith, Kim; Thorne, Helen; Hilton, Ronald W., "Management Accounting, Information for Creating and Managing Value", 5th Edition, McGraw-Hill Australia, 2009. This textbook is available from the Co-op Bookshop on campus. The library will have copies of the textbook available.

Recommended reference texts (current editions of):

Hornigren, Foster, Datar, "Cost Accounting, A Managerial Emphasis", Pearson
Hornigren, Sundem & Stratton, "An Introduction to Management Accounting", Pearson
Hilton, "Managerial Accounting", McGraw-Hill

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Students will be required to complete a number of **Excel based assignments**. To complete these assignments, and prepare for the final exam (which contains an Excel component), students will need access to a computer, running Microsoft Excel. These resources are available in the university's computer rooms or, alternatively, student's can complete the assignments at home. In addition, students will need access to email in order to receive, and then submit, these assignments.

UNIT WEB PAGE

The unit will have a World Wide Web site accessed through Macquarie University OnlineLearning @MQ, using the URL <http://learn.mq.edu.au> (**this must be entered exactly**). Further technical information on the use of Blackboard can be found at <http://online.mq.edu.au/docs/teconf.html>.

The unit Web site is only available to students enrolled in ACCG852. It will be available from Tuesday 2 August 2011. Students will be able to access the unit web page by the use of their normal university user/password details. Please contact the IT Help Desk in the Library if you have any difficulties accessing the unit web page:

Phone: (02) 9850 HELP (4357) or Freecall: 1800 063 191

Face to Face: IT Help Desk, Level 1, University Library

Email: Just Ask. Form <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/justask/>

24/7 Email: ithelp@mq.edu.au

The Website will contain important unit materials, including: Course details (Unit Outline); announcements; lecture notes; solutions to homework questions and online quizzes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The **learning objectives** of this unit are:

- 1) To enable students to distinguish between management and financial accounting and to introduce them to the various product costing, budgeting, and decision making techniques.
- 2) To improve the ability of students to analyse and conceptualise management accounting issues.
- 3) To improve the problem solving skills of students.
- 4) To improve the ability of students to work within groups on set tasks.
- 5) To develop the written and verbal communication skills of students.

The **Learning outcomes** that students should achieve who complete this unit are:

- 1) Critically analyse data, determining relevant information and costing techniques for the purposes of making decisions.
- 2) Critique the assumptions, constraints and limitations of management accounting concepts and demonstrate their understanding of such concepts in respect to real-world examples.
- 3) Demonstrate effective written and oral communication.
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of Excel spread sheeting tools to solve managerial problems.
- 5) Clearly summarise and present current issues on management accounting, and articulate them in a group setting.
- 6) Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of ethical issues affecting the role of a management accountant.

GRADUATE CAPABILITIES

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop the capabilities the University's graduates will need to develop to address the challenges, and to be effective, engaged participants in their world.

This unit contributes to this by developing the following graduate capabilities:

- 1 Discipline specific knowledge and skills by
 - Developing an appreciation of the role management accounting plays in supporting managerial decision making.
 - Developing the ability to apply discipline-specific theoretical knowledge in practical situations.
 - Connecting management accounting theory and practice.
- 2 Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking in relation to specific management accounting cases and problems

3 Problem Solving and Research Capability

4 Creative and Innovative by seeking to develop in students the need to consider various solutions to management accounting problems

5 Effective Communication in seminar discussions and group work

6 Socially and environmentally active and responsible

7 Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

8 Commitment to Continuous Learning

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

The unit is structured around a 3 hour session. Most weeks this will consist of a seminar combined with some interactive/ group/ student initiated work.

Seminars will provide students with the main concepts and techniques and homework provides the opportunity to apply the concepts to problems and exercises. ***It is recommended students have a thorough understanding of the homework.*** To this end, some time will be set aside each week to handle any queries, problems etc arising from the homework material related to the previous week's lecture. Most benefit will be gained from these sessions if you have attempted the homework and identified any problems you wish to raise.

Not all homework questions will be specifically covered in class. Rather, answers to homework questions will be available for students to go through themselves, at their own pace. Students should be prepared to ask their lecturer specific questions about any aspect of the solutions they do not understand. Answers to homework questions will be available at the end of each week from the unit web site.

Students are encouraged to read the prescribed chapter in the textbook **prior** to attending each seminar in order to gain maximum benefit from the course. Lecture notes/slides will be made available each week prior to a seminar through the unit website. Please download these and bring them to class each week.

Active participation in class is encouraged and expected of every student. This helps clarify your ideas and understanding, as well as enhancing your communication skills.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The *two Online quizzes* will help to achieve learning outcomes 1, 2 & 5.

Seminar participation will help to achieve learning outcomes 1-6.

The marks will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Attendance at seminars. **Students are expected to attend all 13 seminars.**
To be recorded as having attended a seminar, students must be in the seminar room for the entire duration of the class.
- The extent to which each student has prepared for each class.
- The ability of students to complete set tasks during classes.
- The ability of students to actively participate in group discussions.
- The willingness of students to co-operate with and assist other students in their learning.

The *weekly assignments* and the two in-class reports (weeks 4 and 10) will help to achieve learning outcomes 1- 3, 5 & 6 and will be collected on a random basis.

Note: the week 4 in class assignment is an early diagnostic of students' understanding of the concepts being taught. If a student experiences **difficulties in** handling this task then they are advised to seek additional assistance in one of the consultation times listed on the unit website.

Information concerning each student's final participation mark will be made available on the unit webpage prior to the date of the final examination.

The final grade will be determined after consideration of performance in all aspects of the course.

It is essential for students to pass their final examination in order to achieve a passing grade.

Assessment Summary

	Assessment Task 1	Assessment Task 2	Assessment Task 3	Assessment Task 4	Assessment Task 5
Title/Name	Online Quiz 1 & 2	Weekly assignments and in-class reports	Seminar participation	Four Excel Assignments	Final Examination
Description	20 Multiple Choice Questions	5 collections	Covers all topics	Covers topics 2, 4, 7 and 8	Covers all topics
Due date	Week 6 & 9	Each seminar	Each seminar	Weeks 5, 8, 11 and 12	Second half year exam period
% Weighting	10 (2 x 5)	10	10	20	50
Grading method	0.25 marks each correct answer	2.0 marks each based on marking guide provided	Comprises 3 marks for attendance and 7 marks for student's participation	5 marks for each assignment	The exam will be marked out of 100 marks and scaled to a mark out of 50
Submission method	Online	In-class	Attendance and participation in class	Online	Formal written examination
Feedback (<i>type, method, date</i>)	In-class Week 6 & 10	Returned and discussed in the following week	Immediate	File graded and returned in the following week via student email	No feedback (this assessment is a summative task)
Estimated student workload (hours)	5 hours each	3 hours per week	2 hours per week	6 hours each	12-15 hours in-semester revision
Learning outcomes assessed	1, 2, 5 & 6	1-6	1-6	1, 2 & 4	1-6
Graduate capabilities assessed	1 and 2	1 – 5, 7, 8	2 – 8	1– 4, 7	1 – 8

- All assignments and weekly assignments must be submitted in accordance with the unit outline. Extensions will **NOT** normally be granted.
- **Late submissions:**
 - Work submitted after the due date will be penalised at 10% of assignment available marks per working day or part thereof.
 - Online quizzes must be completed in the time period specified in the unit outline – **no extensions** will be granted as feedback will be provided in the following week's seminar.

- **Examinations**

1. **Final examination using Excel** in the Computer Labs

This examination will be 2 hours in duration and tests the understanding of the use of Excel as well as management accounting techniques. This examination consists of **Three (3)** questions requiring calculations and possibly journal entries.

2. A **written final examination** is included as an assessment task for this unit to provide assurance that:
 - i) the product belongs to the student and
 - ii) the student has attained the knowledge and skills tested in the exam.

A 2 hour (plus 10 minute reading time) final examination for this unit will be held during the University Examination period.

The University Examination period in Second Half Year 2011 is from 14 November to 4 December.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

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. The University's policy on special consideration process is available at

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. (Individual Faculties may wish to signal when the Faculties' Supplementary Exams are normally scheduled.)

The Macquarie university examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations at the University. The policy is available at:
<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy at
http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

GRADES

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

HD - High Distinction
D - Distinction
CR - Credit
P - Pass
F - Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:
<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

All final grades in the Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance are determined by a grading committee and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Coordinator.

Students will be awarded one of these grades plus a Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG). The SNG is not necessarily a summation of the individual assessment components.

The final grade and SNG that are awarded reflect the corresponding grade descriptor in the Grading Policy.

In addition, there is a requirement to pass the final examination to be awarded a final grade of a Pass or a higher grade.

GRADING APPEALS AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCRIPT VIEWING

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/for/new_and_current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/grade_appeals.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/procedure.html

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>.

Further, CME staff conduct workshops which focus on study skills and writing skills specifically for MAcc students, see www.accg.mq.edu.au/ss/macc/timetables for the timetable.

Other University services available include (note these operate on a semester basis) :

1. WRITING SKILLS PROGRAM:

This program is open to all Macquarie students and offers:

- FREE short course on essay writing in weeks 6-10 each semester
- FREE individual consultations on academic writing (by appointment)

For more information check the website at:

http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/writing_skills/index.htm

2. COMMUNICATION FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES (CAPP):

The CAPP program is open to all Macquarie students who have a language background other than English. It offers:

- FREE workshops on pronunciation and grammar
- FREE individual 30 minute consultations on academic writing (by appointment)

- Units for credit on academic writing and research skills (CAPP100 and CAPP101)

For more information check the CAPP Notice Board (C5A Level 5) at the start of semester or contact:

jean.brick@ling.mq.edu.au

3. INTERNATIONAL STUDY SKILLS ADVISER:

This offers the following services:

- FREE individual or small group consultations on academic writing (by appointment)
- FREE workshops run throughout semester on topics such as:
 - Understanding and preparing assignments
 - Improving academic writing
 - Proofreading techniques
 - Essay writing; report writing and referencing

For more information check the website at:

<http://www.international.mq.edu.au/StudentServices/StudySupport/index.html>

IT CONDITIONS OF USE

Access to all student computing facilities within the Faculty of Business and Economics is restricted to authorised coursework for approved units. Student ID cards must be displayed in the locations provided at all times.

Students are expected to act responsibly when utilising University IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted. Material that is not related to coursework for approved unit is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.