



**ACCG200 - FUNDAMENTALS OF  
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING**

**UNIT OUTLINE  
SEMESTER ONE, 2008**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE**

**DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND  
FINANCIAL STUDIES**

**It is the responsibility of all students enrolled in this unit to read the unit outline carefully at the start of the semester and be aware of its contents. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Fundamentals of Management Accounting is the first of three undergraduate courses in cost and management accounting (the first two of which are necessary for ICAA/ CPA Australia membership). The subject is worth 3 credit points.

This unit focuses on the fundamental objectives of management accounting, being to provide accounting information for planning and control as well as for a variety of decision making purposes. As such, it deals with various costing, budgeting and decision making techniques.

The course is split into three main components:

- (i) The first component is concerned with understanding costs and costing techniques.
- (ii) The second component is concerned with using costs for decision making purposes. Different costs are relevant for different decisions and it is important to be able to discriminate between relevant and irrelevant costs for any given decision.
- (iii) The third component concentrates on budgeting, both the preparation of budgets and the evaluation of performance against the budget.

The course will be taught from a conceptual perspective rather than a merely technical one. While a number of techniques need to be mastered, most organisations tailor a technique to suit their own circumstances. Consequently students must understand when a particular technique is appropriate and also how to adapt and apply it to a given situation.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The course will improve the ability of students to analyse and conceptualise issues. In addition, the requirement for students to complete weekly assignments, do a class presentation, and participate in tutorial group work will facilitate the improvement of their basic writing, problem-solving, interpersonal, and communication skills. The ability of students to identify, evaluate, and manage information and to interpret data with a view to making decisions will also be enhanced.

## **PREREQUISITES:**

ACCG105(P) **or** ACCG101(P) **or** ACCG100(P) and ACCG101 **or** ACCG105 and BBA103 and 30cp.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:**

*1) Management Accounting, Information for managing and creating value*, by Kim Langfield-Smith, Helen Thorne and Ronald W. Hilton, 4th Edition, 2006, McGraw-Hill.

Access to this text is essential for lecture references and for tutorial questions. There have been substantial changes to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of this text, especially in the end of chapter questions. **DO NOT RELY ON PREVIOUS EDITIONS.**

## STAFF:

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(Lecturer-in-charge)

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Details regarding availability and locations of all tutorial teaching staff will be available on **Online Learning @ MQ**. The most efficient way to contact staff is via email. Please use this form of contact in the first instance for general course enquiries.

Please note that any changes to tutorial classes must be made online through e-student **before the end of Week 4**. Students wishing to change their tutorial time should log on to e-student and enrol in a class where there is a vacancy. Staff members **WILL NOT** deal with tutorial changes unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is each student's responsibility to know which tutorial group they have been allocated to. **Students will not be awarded any tutorial marks unless they attend the class in which they are formally enrolled.**

All general queries regarding the course should be directed to Pam Baker, as well as any information regarding your inability to fulfil any course requirements, which should be made known at the earliest possible opportunity.

## STAFF CONSULTATION:

Staff will be available at designated times to answer student queries concerning tutorial material, revision questions and any other aspects of the course. Details regarding staff consultation hours will be provided on **Online Learning** (see page 8 for access details). In order to gain access to staff during their consultation hours please ring the staff member from the phones available in the lobby area on levels 2 and 3 of building E4A.

**Any students experiencing significant difficulties with any topic in the course should seek help prior to their tutorial.**

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY:**

The course is structured around a 1 hour lecture and a 2 hour tutorial per week. Lectures are intended to provide students with an overview of the main concepts and techniques. Lectures may not cover all of the material and students are expected to read all of the prescribed references (see pages 10), preferably prior to the lecture. Tutorials will be run on a workshop basis with students being given the opportunity to apply the concepts to additional problems and exercises. The tutorials are designed to provide an interactive environment in which students will be able to discuss issues and problems with each other, and their tutor, in order to improve their understanding of the material. Regular class attendance, reading of prescribed references and the completion of tutorial and revision questions are essential for satisfactory progress in this course.

**Lecture overheads and additional tutorial material will be available to download via Online Learning. You must bring copies of the relevant material to lectures and tutorials each week. Any other information regarding the course will also be available from Online Learning . Please check regularly.**

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:**

Students are expected to arrive at lectures and tutorials on time and not to leave until the class ends.

If you have a recurring problem which makes you late, or forces you to leave early, have the courtesy to discuss this with your lecturer/tutor and please enter or leave the lecture theatre via the rear doors.

Students are expected to be quiet during lectures unless, of course, class participation is required.

Mobiles should be turned off during all classes; not simply set to "silent".

## **ASSESSMENT:**

End of semester examination:	65%
On-line quizzes:	10%
Tutorial mark:	20%
Presentation:	5%

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 TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE FOR THE UNIT.**

## ON-LINE QUIZZES:

Two on-line multiple-choice quizzes, each consisting of 30 multiple choice questions, will be conducted during the semester. Each of these quizzes is worth 5% of the total assessment. The quizzes will be held on the following dates and will cover all lecture material, readings, and tutorial work from the weeks indicated.

To access the tests: Go to the **Online Learning @ MQ ACCG200** homepage and click on the 'Quiz 1' or 'Quiz 2' icon.

Quiz 1 – Will be available from 7am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April until 10am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. This quiz will cover the material from Weeks 1-4 (Langfield-Smith Chapters 1-4 and 6).

Quiz 2 – Will be available from 7am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May until 10am on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. This quiz will cover Weeks 6-10 (Langfield-Smith Chapters 7-8 and 18-20).

Each student will get a different question set for both quizzes.

Completing the test: Each quiz will be displayed in the following way:

- Click on begin to start the quiz. If a new window does not appear, it is possible that you have a pop-up window blocking software installed in your computer. Disable pop-up window blocking software while attempting the quiz. If you are unsure of how to disable the pop-up window blocking software then contact the IT Helpdesk (contact details are provided on page 9).
- Students will only be able to complete one question at a time.
- You must click on 'Save answer' to register each answer.
- Once a question has been saved or skipped, you cannot return to that question.
- At the end of the quiz, you must click on 'Finish'

We recommend you use Internet Explorer, do not use Netscape.

It is each student's responsibility to ensure that the quizzes are completed during the timeslots available. Hence, there will be no consideration given to students who leave it until the end of the periods in which the quizzes are available and then experience computer mishaps. You are expected to allow for such problems and have a backup computer source available eg use the University computers. Also no allowance will be made for line dropouts. If you know you have an unreliable online connection, then you should complete the test on a different computer.

Any student who fails to complete an on-line quiz in the prescribed time will receive zero marks unless a legitimate request for special consideration is received on an 'Advice of Absence or Other Circumstances' form, available from Undergraduate Students Enquiry Service or the University website, <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/USSAbsence.pdf>, with any supporting documentation, eg medical certificate attached.

## **TUTORIALS:**

### **ATTENDANCE AT TUTORIALS IS COMPULSORY.**

**Given this requirement, any student who misses a tutorial (and has a legitimate reason) should complete and submit an ‘Advice of Absence or Other Circumstances’ form (available from Undergraduate Students Centre or the University website, <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/USSAbsence.pdf>) and attach any supporting documentation eg medical certificate. Two copies of this document must be submitted, one to the Undergraduate Students Enquiry Service, and one to the Division of Economic and Financial Studies. You should also submit a copy to your tutor at the first available opportunity.**

Tutorials will be held each week commencing in week 2. The purpose of the tutorials is to reinforce key concepts, and to provide an interactive learning environment in which staff can identify and assist students with problems that they may be encountering. The tutorials are also aimed towards the promotion of peer assisted learning, with students required to complete specific tasks in groups and actively encouraged to assist each other in developing an understanding of the course material.

Students are expected to have read the required readings and completed the pre set ‘tutorial homework questions’ prior to each tutorial. They should be prepared to participate in group discussions concerning the relevant topic area and be able to make reasonable attempts at additional questions during tutorials.

**NB Copies of the additional material that will be covered during tutorials as well as additional homework questions (“Extra Questions”) will be made available on the subject website. All students must bring a copy of these questions with them to tutorials.**

## **PRESENTATION:**

All students will be required to make a 3-5 minute presentation during tutorials. The presentation will be evaluated by the tutor and is worth 5% of the total assessment marks. The presentation should be based on an article that covers a topic relevant to the material covered in the course. Students may look in publications such as the Business Review Weekly, The Bulletin, or professional journals such as “INTHEBLACK” and “Charter” for such articles. If in doubt as to the suitability of your chosen article please consult your tutor prior to your scheduled presentation date. The presentations will be evaluated based on the following five criteria:

- content (relevance to course)
- organisation (introduction and conclusion, sequencing of points)
- delivery (presentations skills such as tone/clarity of voice, gestures, maintaining eye contact, use of supporting slides etc)
- timing (adhering to the time limit)
- overall presentation

Presentations will commence in Week 4 and the exact date of your presentation will be determined by your tutor in the first week of tutorials.

## **FINAL EXAMINATION:**

**A 3 hour examination will take place at the conclusion of the course in the mid year examination period. All material covered in the course will be examinable. Further details on the final exam will be made available via Online Learning later in the semester.**

The use of a dictionary in the final examination is not permitted.

The University Examination period in First Semester 2008 is from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

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. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf>

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.

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester that is the final day of the official examination period.

### **MISADVENTURE /UNAVOIDABLE DISRUPTION RE FINAL EXAM**

Any student who wishes to apply for special consideration regarding their performance in the final examination must arrange for completion of the appropriate documentation, including, where necessary, a Professional Authority Form (copies are available from the Undergraduate Student Centre). No consideration will be given to any student who does not provide the necessary documentation as indicated on this form.

Although requests will be considered they are not automatically granted.

Consideration in the final examination will **ONLY** be given to those students who have satisfactory

- attendance at tutorial classes (present at 9 or more classes),
- results for their tutorial work (minimum 8/15 marks)
- presentation
- on-line quizzes (both online quizzes attempted)
- completed mid-semester assignment

### **GRADING APPEALS AND EXAM SCRIPT VIEWING:**

If you honestly believe that an error has occurred that has affected your final grade (and you have evidence to support this) you may:

- a) view your exam script (deadline to register on the web is 10.00am 16 July; viewing 17 and 18 July) and
- b) if necessary, lodge a Grade Review application (in person or by proxy) with the Division by 5.00pm on 21 July

For further information on these two processes please refer to [www.efs.mq.edu.au/ss/grade\\_appeals](http://www.efs.mq.edu.au/ss/grade_appeals).

## **UNIT WEBPAGE:**

**Online Learning @ MQ** is a website via which students will be able to gain information and resources to assist them in their learning process. The following information will be available on **Online Learning @ MQ**.

- Important announcements
- Lecture notes and additional tutorial and material
- Staff consultation hours
- Staff contact details
- Tutorial and revision question solutions
- Additional tutorial question solutions
- Other relevant material.

You are encouraged to regularly check the website and use it as an information and resource centre to assist with your learning.

### **Accessing Online Learning @ MQ**

Go to <http://learn.mq.edu.au>

On the next screen enter your username and password.

This takes you to the link for ACCG 200. Click on this link to access the ACCG 200 webpage.

### **Username and Password for Online Learning @ MQ**

The username and password for **Online Learning** is the same username and password for your Macquarie University e-mail account.

If you don't know what your username and password are then contact the IT helpdesk

Student IT Help

Building C5C Room 244

Web: <http://www.library.mq.edu.au/help/ithelp/>

Phone: (02) 9850 HELP, (02) 9850 4357 (in Sydney) or 1 800 063 191 (outside Sydney)

Email: via the Just Ask form at <http://www.library.mq.edu.au/justask/>

You should also contact the IT helpdesk if you need assistance with using **Online Learning**, alternatively use the help feature provided.

### **Important**

If you have contacted the helpdesk in regard to your username and password and you are still unable to login to **Online Learning** then you should contact Mr Alex Yu at the earliest possible instance.

**Make sure that when you have finished using Online Learning that you log out. Failure to do so could allow unauthorised access to your Online Learning account.**

## LECTURE OUTLINE

WEEK	DATE COMMENCING	TOPIC	READING
1	25 <sup>th</sup> February	<p><b>Introduction and course overview</b>  <b>The management accounting environment</b>                      Role of management accounting; typical functions of a management accounting system; the changing environment of management accounting; professional accounting bodies and professional ethics.</p> <p><b>Cost concepts</b>                      Management accounting information; cost classification; value chain; costs in manufacturing and service businesses; product costs</p>	<p><b>Chapter 1,</b></p> <p><b>Chapter 2</b></p>
2	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<p><b>Cost behaviour</b>                      Cost drivers, variable/fixed costs; cost estimation.</p>	<b>Chapter 3</b>
3	10 <sup>th</sup> March	<p><b>Costing systems</b>                      Product costing – purpose; allocating overhead costs. Types of product costing systems: - job costing and process costing.</p>	<b>Chapter 4</b>
4	17 <sup>th</sup> March	<p><b>Service Costing</b>                      Cost classification and cost flows</p>	<b>Chapter 6</b>
5	24 <sup>th</sup> March	EASTER WEEK	NO LECTURE
6	31 <sup>st</sup> March	<p><b>Overhead costs</b>                      Allocating overhead costs, allocating support department costs.</p>	<b>Chapter 7</b> <b>pp. 294-324</b>
7	7 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Activity based costing</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>
MID	SEMESTER BREAK	<b>Topic for self study – Variable and Absorption Costing</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b> <b>pp. 325-330</b>
8	28 <sup>th</sup> April	<p><b>Cost volume profit analysis</b>                      Breakeven point, target net profit, management decision making; multiple products and tax effects</p>	<b>Chapter 18</b> <b>pp.853-881</b>
9	5 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>Decision making</b>                      Short versus long term; relevant costs; allocating joint production costs</p>	<b>Chapter 19</b>
10	12 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>Decision making continued</b>                      Pricing and product mix decisions</p>	<b>Chapter 20</b>
11	19 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>Budgeting:</b>                      Purposes of budgeting; budget development; behavioural consequences.                      Flexible budgets; Activity based budgeting</p>	<b>Chapter 9</b> <b>Chapter 11</b> <b>pp.519-526,</b> <b>pp.535, 539-541.</b>
12	26 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>Standard costing for control:</b>                      Standard setting; direct materials and direct labour variances; Fixed and variable overhead variances; appraisal of standard costing systems;</p>	<b>Chapter 10,</b> <b>Chapter 11</b> <b>pp. 526-538</b>
13	2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Revision lecture</b>	

\* Management Accounting, Information for managing and creating value, by Kim Langfield-Smith, Helen Thorne, and Ronald W. Hilton, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2006, McGraw-Hill.

## **CPA AUSTRALIA POLICY ON CONCEDED PASSES:**

The number of conceded passes acceptable in a three year Bachelor degree is restricted to two. No more than one conceded pass is acceptable for subjects in the core curriculum unless a more advanced subject has been passed in the same area. This applies to all grades issued from 1 January 2005. This is a change of policy from 1 January 2002 until 31 December 2004, where the number of conceded passes acceptable in a three year Bachelor degree was restricted to three. The policy is available on the CPA website at [www.cpacareers.com.au](http://www.cpacareers.com.au).

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS:**

Students transferring to Macquarie University who wish to have qualifications obtained at other tertiary institutions considered for accreditation by the professional accounting bodies (CPA Australia and ICAA) are reminded that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that these qualifications are accepted by the professional bodies.

## **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. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a 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 provided the student meets all unit requirements, such as tutorial attendance and satisfactory performance in the final examination.

For an explanation of the policy see: <http://senate.mq.edu.au/rules/detailedguidelines.doc>

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:**

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

## **CHEATING:**

Attached is a document, which clearly sets out what the University regards as cheating, ways to avoid cheating and the potential consequences for any student caught cheating. Please read this document carefully before completing any work for the course.

## **THE DANGERS OF CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM AND HOW TO AVOID IT**

To cheat in the context of university assignments, tests and examinations is to attempt to gain an unfair advantage by violating the principles of intellectual and scholarly integrity. Cheating also encompasses plagiarism, which is the appropriation or imitation of another person's ideas and manner of expressing them.

### **WHAT IS CHEATING?**

You will be guilty of cheating if you do any of the following:

1. Copy from another student during a test or examination. This is cheating whether or not there is collusion between the students involved. Collusion with another student who wishes to cheat from you exposes both parties to penalties under University Regulations.
2. Use or paraphrase the work of others, including any document, audio-visual or computer-based material, when preparing an assignment or writing an examination, and pretend it is your own work by not acknowledging where it came from.
3. Copy from another student's coursework whether that copying be with or without the knowledge of that student. This includes:
  - copying all or part of someone else's assignment
  - allowing someone else to copy all or part of your assignment
  - having someone else do all or part of an assignment for you
  - doing all or part of someone else's assignment for them.
4. Make up data and fabricate results in research assignments.
5. Impersonate someone else in an examination or test, or arrange such impersonation.
6. Use forbidden material in a test or examination, whether in printed or electronic form. For example, attempting to use a non-standard calculator in a restricted calculator examination.

### **WHY IS IT WRONG?**

If you take and use the work of another person without clearly stating or acknowledging your source, you are falsely claiming that material as your own work and committing an act of plagiarism. This is wrong because:

- it violates the principle of intellectual and scholarly integrity.
- it devalues the grades and qualifications gained legitimately by other students.

### **PREVENTING CHEATING**

All students and staff have a responsibility to prevent, discourage and report cheating.

Typically students cheat because they are having difficulty with the unit content, the language of the unit, or both. Cheating and/or plagiarism can be a temptation when students are experiencing difficulty with a heavy workload in the unit and seek to save time by using others work.

To avoid having students resort to cheating, the University provides many services to help students with their course or to make thoughtful decisions about whether to continue. Within the Division of Economic and Financial Studies, students should first seek assistance from their tutor and/or lecturer. The University also offers help through the Dean of Students or the University Health and Counseling Services.

There is a difference between getting help and cheating. You are encouraged to get help if you need assistance to understand the material and any set work so that you are in a better position to create your own answers.

## **HOW TO PLAY SAFE**

To maintain good academic practice, so that you may be given credit for your own efforts, and so that your own contribution can be properly appreciated and evaluated, you should acknowledge your sources and you should *ALWAYS*:

- (i) State clearly in the appropriate form where you found the material on which you have based your work, using the system of reference specified by the Division in which your assignment was set;
- (ii) Acknowledge the people whose concepts, experiments or results you have extracted, developed or summarised, even if you put these ideas into your own words;
- (iii) Avoid excessive copying of passages by another author, even where the source is acknowledged. Find another form of words to show that you have thought about the material and understood it, but remember to state clearly where you found the ideas.

There is nothing wrong with working with other students in a group; indeed sometimes you will be encouraged to do so. But after a certain point, each student must work on their own to produce their own written answers. If no specific guidelines for group-work have been given, a reasonable interpretation is that it is acceptable for two or more students to discuss a problem among themselves or with a staff member. The group may then agree that the answer should include certain points. But then each member of the group must independently write their own answer to the problem.

## **PENALTIES**

Students who are guilty of cheating and plagiarism will be penalised. Depending on the nature of the offence, the unit coordinator will determine the penalty. For example, extensive plagiarism may result in zero marks for an assignment. Repeat offences will be referred to the University Discipline Committee and may result in failure or exclusion from the university.

(This material has been compiled from the existing plagiarism documents of Macquarie University and University of Auckland.)