



ACCG8150

Contemporary Accounting Practice

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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See iLearn for details.

Moderator

Dale Tweedie

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp in ACCG or ACST or AFIN or BUS or ECON or MGMT or MKTG units at 8000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit aims to consolidate learning across postgraduate studies in accounting, preparing students for employment in complex business environments. Leadership and entrepreneurship are discussed as well as the importance of risk management in business decision making. Using real life case studies, reviews of industry reports and research as well as presentations by industry leaders and student alumni, this unit develops the knowledge and skills necessary to work as a professional accountant. This unit requires students to think critically, ethically and strategically in solving business problems whilst integrating technical knowledge and professional skills.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting (and critically analyse the application and impact of these concepts, theories and methods to contemporary accounting challenges).

ULO2: Identify and reflect on knowledge and skills obtained by completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and evaluate how these have helped prepare for a transition to employment as an accountant.

ULO3: Critically evaluate the relationship between accounting and technology, including how accounting and business strategies determine information systems decisions.

ULO4: Apply professionally critical judgement and problem-solving capabilities to recommend justified solutions.

ULO5: Form and articulate an opinion on emerging social, environmental, ethical, regulatory, political and technological aspects relevant to an accounting practitioner.

ULO6: Explain the components of an organisation’s governance framework, internal control procedures, and risk management framework.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (written assessments)

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of ‘0’ will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to apply for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Career Planning	35%	No	Week 5
Sustainability Report	30%	No	Week 9
Risk Management and Information Systems	35%	No	Week 13

Career Planning

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **35%**

Students are required to write a critical reflection describing their plan(s) for their future career, articulating how their future plans follow the employment trends in the changing world, identifying and recognising knowledge and skills gained and evaluating how these knowledge and skills will assist them to achieve their career goals.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting (and critically analyse the application and impact of these concepts, theories and methods to contemporary accounting challenges).
- Identify and reflect on knowledge and skills obtained by completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and evaluate how these have helped prepare for a transition to employment as an accountant.
- Critically evaluate the relationship between accounting and technology, including how accounting and business strategies determine information systems decisions.
- Form and articulate an opinion on emerging social, environmental, ethical, regulatory, political and technological aspects relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Sustainability Report

Assessment Type **1**: Report

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 20 hours

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **30%**

Students are required to analyse the sustainability report of a listed company that adopted the Global Reporting Initiative standards. Drawing on publications in leading academic and professional journals, students are required to identify adopted impression management strategies and develop specific recommendations on how to improve corporate communication.

This assessment involves a group report and group presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting (and critically analyse the application and impact of these concepts, theories and methods to contemporary accounting challenges).

- Apply professionally critical judgement and problem-solving capabilities to recommend justified solutions.
- Form and articulate an opinion on emerging social, environmental, ethical, regulatory, political and technological aspects relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Risk Management and Information Systems

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **35%**

Students are required to research issues related to a recent corporate fraud case in the context of risk management. Students are required to identify and analyse the main features of the fraud case and suggest risk management strategies. It is essential that students refer to the latest available technology to support their analysis and recommendations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting (and critically analyse the application and impact of these concepts, theories and methods to contemporary accounting challenges).
- Identify and reflect on knowledge and skills obtained by completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and evaluate how these have helped prepare for a transition to employment as an accountant.
- Critically evaluate the relationship between accounting and technology, including how accounting and business strategies determine information systems decisions.
- Apply professionally critical judgement and problem-solving capabilities to recommend justified solutions.
- Form and articulate an opinion on emerging social, environmental, ethical, regulatory, political and technological aspects relevant to an accounting practitioner.
- Explain the components of an organisation's governance framework, internal control procedures, and risk management framework.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment

- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Please see iLearn for details of delivery.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Future of the accounting profession and reflective practice
2	International accounting in a globalized world
3	Factors influencing professional judgments
4	Current issues in sustainability reporting
5	Sustainability reporting in the context of impression management
6	Accounting scandals, fraud, ethics, and the accounting profession
7	Behavioural auditing and computer-assisted audit tools
8	Governance and risk management framework
9	Presentations
10	Information systems decisions, processes, planning, and development
11	Current and future trends in information system: Big data, blockchain, cyber security
12	Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in accounting
13	Understanding the importance and limitations of emerging issues in contemporary accounting practice

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)

- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

Assessment tasks changed from the previous offering.

Unit information based on version 2024.04 of the [Handbook](#)