



ACCG847

Forensic Accounting

S1 Evening 2017

Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Tony Prior

tony.prior@mq.edu.au

Contact via Initially via email

The preferred initial contact is via email to confirm a location.

Moderator

Verity Greenwood

verity.greenwood@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Lecturer

Vladimir Chugunov

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Contact via Email

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

ACCG611 or admission to MAdvProfAcc

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines various techniques of financial fraud prevention, investigation and detection. Topics will include: motivations for financial fraud, symptoms of financial fraud, financial statement fraud, evidence collection and evaluation, legal report writing, interviewing witnesses and perpetrators, and fraud prevention. Case studies will be used.

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:

Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud

- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
- Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

General Assessment Information

To complete this unit satisfactorily, students must attempt all components of the assessments and obtain a minimum aggregate grade of 50%.

Extensions

You are expected to submit written assessment tasks by the published due date UNLESS you have received written permission to submit your work at a later date from the Unit convenor. No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved. No submission will be accepted after solutions have been posted.

Details of how the University defines serious and unavoidable disruption to studies, and information about the processes involved, are contained in the Disruptions to Studies Policy.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|--|-----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Class Participation</u> | 20% | No | Weekly |
| <u>Case Study/ Report</u> | 30% | No | Week commencing 22 May 2017 |
| <u>Class Test 1</u> | 25% | No | Week commencing 10 April 2017 |
| <u>Class Test 2</u> | 25% | No | Week commencing 12 June 2017 |

Class Participation

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Individuals will be required to actively contribute to assigned class activities and discussions each week. Activities assigned each week will also be submitted online prior to the commencement of the seminar.

Submission:

In your designated class.

Extension:

No extension will be granted.

Penalties:

A mark of ZERO will be assigned for non-submission.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
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Case Study/ Report

Due: **Week commencing 22 May 2017**

Weighting: **30%**

Case study by a group of 5/7 students.

Submission:

One report for each group is to be submitted online in iLearn by commencement of class Week 11 . A ten minute presentation by each group will be required in class time on Week 12.

Extension:

No extension will be granted. Please refer to the University's Disruption to Studies Policy.

Penalties:

Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports

Class Test 1

Due: **Week commencing 10 April 2017**

Weighting: **25%**

Submission:

A 1 hour written test will be held in class and designed to assess a student's knowledge .

Extension:

No extension will be granted. No supplementary test will be offered except in cases in which an application is made and approved under the University's Disruption to Studies Policy.

Penalties:

A mark of ZERO will be awarded for not sitting the examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports

Class Test 2

Due: **Week commencing 12 June 2017**

Weighting: **25%**

Submission:

A 1 hour written test will be held in class and designed to assess a student's knowledge .

Extension:

No extension will be granted. No supplementary test will be offered except in cases in which an application is made and approved under the University's Disruption to Studies Policy.

Penalties:

A mark of ZERO will be assigned for not sitting the examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
- Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

Delivery and Resources

CLASSES

Students are required to attend one 3 hours face-to-face seminar per week. This will be held in W5A 204 on Wednesdays between 6pm and 9pm.

The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at:

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

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

The following text is available from the Co-op Bookshop:

Albrecht, S. W., Albrecht C.C., Albrecht C.O. and Zimbelman M.F., 2011, Fraud Examination, South Western, 5th Edition,

ISBN: [978-1-305-07914-4](#)

This text will be supplemented with readings available on the unit web site. Also see the seminar discussion and assignments.

The following text is recommended as useful resource:

Hopwood, W.S., Leiner, J. J. and Young G.R., 2012, Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination, 2nd Edition.

ISBN 9780078136665

The following Journals are useful as additional references:

Journal of Forensic Accounting, Auditing and Fraud

Journal of Forensic and Investigative Accounting

Managerial Auditing Journal

Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory

Computer Fraud and Security

Forensic Science

Forensic Science International

Environmental Forensics

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Students are expected to have:

Proficiency in Word, Excel and Powerpoint

Knowledge of Macquarie University iLearn - for downloading lecture materials, etc

Knowledge of the library research databases - for accessing additional research material.

Access to a personal computer to be able to access iLearn and submit completed assessment material online.

UNIT WEB PAGE

Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn). The web page for this unit can be found at:

<http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/index.htm>

Unit Schedule**Unit Schedule**

| Week commencing | Topic | Reading |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 27 Feb | Overview and introduction to nature of fraud | Albrecht 1 KPMG Fraud Survey |
| 6 March | Why People Commit Fraud | Albrecht 2 |
| 13 March | Fraud Prevention | Albrecht 3 & 4 |
| 20 March | Fraud Detection | Albrecht 5 |
| 27 March | Financial Investigation | Albrecht 7 & 8 |
| 3 April | Inquiry Methods and Fraud Reports | Albrecht 10 |
| 10 April | Class Test 1 Financial statement fraud - overview | Albrecht 11 |
| 17 April 24 April | Mid-Session break | |
| 1 May | Financial statement fraud - revenue and inventory related | Albrecht 12 |
| 8 May | Financial statement fraud - liability, asset and inadequate disclosure | Albrecht 13 |
| 15 May | Fraud Against Organisations | Albrecht 14 |
| 22 May | Consumer Fraud and Fraud in E-Commerce Group Case Study due online | Albrecht 15 & 17 |
| 29 May | Bankruptcy & Divorce Group Case Study Presentations | |
| 5 June | Current Issues in Fraud | |

12 June

Class Test 2

Policies and Procedures

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

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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.

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>

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.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergraduate_current_students/how_do_i/grade_appeals/

Student Support

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

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen

fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
- Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Case Study/ Report
- Class Test 1
- Class Test 2

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
- Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Case Study/ Report
- Class Test 1
- Class Test 2

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically

supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
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Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Case Study/ Report
- Class Test 1
- Class Test 2

Research and Practice, Global and Sustainability

Students are expected to spend 150 hours working on this unit. As a guide a student should spend these approximate amounts of time on each of the following activities:

| | Activities | Hours |
|---|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Weekly Seminars | 39 |
| 2 | Class Test 1 | 20 |
| 3 | Class Test 2 | 20 |
| 4 | Case Study Report | 25 |
| 5 | Case Study Presentation | 6 |
| 6 | Readings and Self Study | 40 |
| | Total | 150 |

The unit gives you opportunities to conduct your own research and gives you practice in applying research findings in your assessment tasks. Students will be required to use library resources to research beyond these materials in undertaking research to complete their tasks.

The unit introduces addresses global and sustainability issues as direct areas of study and as necessary implications arising from the materials, assessment and academic discussion and debate in seminars. We promote sustainability by developing ability in students to research and locate information within the Forensic Accounting discipline. We aim to provide students with an opportunity to obtain skills that will benefit them throughout their career.

The unit materials have a reference list at the end of each chapter in the prescribed text containing all references used by the authors. These provide some guidance to references that could be used to research particular issues.

Changes since First Published

| Date | Description |
|------------|---|
| 15/02/2017 | Bankruptcy & Divorce fraud included into Unit Guide - no other inclusions |