



ACCG872

Advanced Financial Reporting

S2 Day 2017

Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

ACCG612 or ACCG926

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with a detailed understanding of contemporary financial reporting issues from an Australian and international perspective. The unit examines the role of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and of regulatory institutions influencing the timing and content of financial reporting in Australia. Students will examine how a reporting entity must present a complete set of financial reports, including consolidated cash flow reporting. Additionally, students will examine two important accounting issues, the application of Fair Value and the legal and practical application of insolvency and liquidation, from an Australian perspective. The second part of the course builds on corporate reporting by examining the contemporary application of corporate governance disclosures, social and environmental reporting, integrated reporting, and advancements in non-financial reporting. The course closes by examining a current or impending change in Australian Accounting Standards. The unit builds on the knowledge base acquired from earlier accounting units with emphasis on the application of technical skills. The unit also provides students with an understanding of quantitative research which helps develop students' ability to read and analyse financial reports.

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:

- Understand the current political, legal and regulatory aspects influencing the presentation of financial reports for Australian companies.
- Understand a selection of technical requirements that apply to the presentation of financial statements in Australia as well as the ability to work in a group environment to develop solutions to complex accounting issues.
- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.
- Use quantitative accounting information in the financial reports to make critical judgements and aid in decision making.
- Analyse and explain contemporary issues in financial reporting, including future directions and issues.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Mid-Semester Test	15%	No	Week 6
Class presentation	15%	No	Weeks 8-12
Research Report	20%	No	Monday, October 23, 2017. 9 am
Exam	50%	No	Examination Period

Mid-Semester Test

Due: **Week 6**

Weighting: **15%**

Mid-semester test covering all material up to Week 5.

Extensions There are no extensions for this assessment.

Penalties Students must be present in Class when the test is given or else they will receive a zero grade. This penalty does not apply to cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the current political, legal and regulatory aspects influencing the presentation of financial reports for Australian companies.

- Understand a selection of technical requirements that apply to the presentation of financial statements in Australia as well as the ability to work in a group environment to develop solutions to complex accounting issues.
- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.

Class presentation

Due: **Weeks 8-12**

Weighting: **15%**

Students will choose one of the following topics as the basis of an in-class Powerpoint Presentation and a 1000-word report on the current status of the topic from a reporting perspective. Students should define the topic, outline the regulatory requirements from a reporting perspective, give an update on how companies are applying the topic, and outline challenges for the future.

Week 8 - Fair Value Accounting

Week 9 - Australian Corporate Governance Guidelines

Week 10 - Social and Environmental Reporting

Week 11 - Integrated Reporting

Week 12 - EU Directive on Non-Financial Reporting

Students will be allowed to work in groups. 50% of the mark is a shared group mark and 50% will be attributed to individual students.

Provisions for Disruptions

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.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the current political, legal and regulatory aspects influencing the presentation of financial reports for Australian companies.
- Understand a selection of technical requirements that apply to the presentation of financial statements in Australia as well as the ability to work in a group environment to develop solutions to complex accounting issues.
- Analyse and explain contemporary issues in financial reporting, including future directions and issues.

Research Report

Due: **Monday, October 23, 2017. 9 am**

Weighting: **20%**

Analysis of a corporate failure - Your role is to use the provided documents on iLearn to unpack why Dick Smith Electronics failed from an accounting perspective. In this 1500-word essay, you must make arguments as to why a company that was worth more than \$520 Million when floated in 2014, ended up failing. While there is considerable qualitative information and stories about why Dick Smith failed, few arguments and reasons are presented using the accounting numbers supplied by Dick Smith in their prospectus and their subsequent Annual Reports. In this essay, you examine the financial and other documents provided on iLearn and explain the signs that point to how Dick Smith became insolvent and eventually was liquidated. To conclude the essay, some critical comments on the role played by accountants and financial reporting standards are required.

Provisions for Disruptions

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.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.
- Use quantitative accounting information in the financial reports to make critical judgements and aid in decision making.

Exam

Due: **Examination Period**

Weighting: **50%**

Final exam worth 50% of total mark. Covers all material presented in the class. This is a closed book exam.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the current political, legal and regulatory aspects influencing the presentation of financial reports for Australian companies.
- Understand a selection of technical requirements that apply to the presentation of financial statements in Australia as well as the ability to work in a group environment to develop solutions to complex accounting issues.
- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.
- Use quantitative accounting information in the financial reports to make critical

judgements and aid in decision making.

- Analyse and explain contemporary issues in financial reporting, including future directions and issues.

Delivery and Resources

Recommended Textbook: Leo et al. (2015), Company Accounting (10th Edition), Wiley, Milton, QLD.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to Course and Critical Thinking Review Review of Accounting Regulation in Australia and current issues	Handouts
Week 2	The Conceptual Framework in Australia - Current status and future issues	Handouts
Week 3	Presentation of Financial Reports and Consolidated Cash Flows - Reading and analysing	Handouts
Week 4	Insolvency and Liquidation - Part 1	Handouts
Week 5	Insolvency and Liquidation - Part 2	Handouts
Week 6	Mid-semester test /Application of Fair Value Accounting	Handouts
Week 7	Test feedback / Quantitative Research - Preparing for your essay assessment	Handouts
Week 8	Student presentation / Australian Corporate Governance Guidelines	Handouts
Week 9	Student presentation / Social and Environmental Reporting	Handouts
Week 10	Student presentation / Integrated Reporting	Handouts
Week 11	Student presentation / EU Directive on Non-Financial Reporting	Handouts
Week 12	Student presentation / IFRS 16 – Accounting for Leases	Handouts
Week 13	Essay feedback / Exam review	Handouts

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.a>

[u/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html](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.

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

- Understand the current political, legal and regulatory aspects influencing the presentation of financial reports for Australian companies.
- Understand a selection of technical requirements that apply to the presentation of financial statements in Australia as well as the ability to work in a group environment to develop solutions to complex accounting issues.
- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.

Assessment tasks

- Mid-Semester Test
- Class presentation
- Research Report
- Exam

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the current political, legal and regulatory aspects influencing the presentation of financial reports for Australian companies.
- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.
- Use quantitative accounting information in the financial reports to make critical judgements and aid in decision making.
- Analyse and explain contemporary issues in financial reporting, including future

directions and issues.

Assessment tasks

- Mid-Semester Test
- Class presentation
- Research Report
- Exam

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

- Understand the concepts of insolvency and liquidation from an Australian perspective.
- Use quantitative accounting information in the financial reports to make critical judgements and aid in decision making.
- Analyse and explain contemporary issues in financial reporting, including future directions and issues.

Assessment tasks

- Mid-Semester Test
- Class presentation
- Research Report
- Exam

Changes from Previous Offering

The course has been redesigned to have more focus on the understanding and application of contemporary issues in financial reporting from an Australian perspective, with some emphasis on reporting issues from an international perspective that is influencing or may potentially influence Australian companies. Students will also be using actual company reports to analyse quantitative accounting information in the reports to make judgements and aid in decision making. New assessments have been designed to give students experience in engaging with contemporary accounting and reporting issues they are likely to confront when they enter the workforce.