ACCG8076
Forensic and Data Analytics
Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2024

Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Kathleen Clough
kathleen.clough@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
ACCG6011 or ACCG611 or (admission to MActPrac or MBkgFin or MBusAnalytics or GradCertForAccg or GradDipForAccg or MForAccgFinCri)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
In this unit students will be exposed to the theory and application of data analytics skills and techniques in relation to fraud detection and identifying business risks. The unit will introduce students to mechanisms and principles relevant to tracing assets, investigating flow of funds and reconstructing accounting information. Visual and location analytic capabilities that use a variety of tools and techniques, along with external data sets, will be explored. The unit will also equip students with the capacity to appraise applications and strategies to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data.

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: Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting.
ULO2: Investigate applications and strategies, including data mining, to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data.
ULO3: Manage and interpret complex or disparate sets of data to underpin business
development, interpret risk, understand behavioural patterns, and detect suspicious or irregular behaviour.

**ULO4:** Examine issues and key principles of professional digital forensic practice, including chain of custody and best practice procedures.

**ULO5:** Diagnose and appraise mechanisms to uncover or recover evidence from digital devices to support litigation and investigations.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Class Test

**Assessment Type:** Quiz/Test

**Indicative Time on Task:** 18 hours

**Due:** **Week 6**

**Weighting:** 20%

The class test may include one, or a combination of, the following types of assessment: multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer style questions, problem scenario or evidence-based questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting.
- Investigate applications and strategies, including data mining, to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data.

#### Class Presentation

**Assessment Type:** Presentation

**Indicative Time on Task:** 18 hours

**Due:** **Week 9**

**Weighting:** 20%

In this assessment students will deliver a 10-minute presentation that requires a consolidation of the theory, and application of data analytics skills and techniques to enable the assessment,
review, and presentation of unstructured data relevant to advance a forensic accounting investigation. A summary report will be required to accompany the presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting.
- Investigate applications and strategies, including data mining, to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data.
- Manage and interpret complex or disparate sets of data to underpin business development, interpret risk, understand behavioural patterns, and detect suspicious or irregular behaviour.

**Participation**

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours  
Due: Weekly  
Weighting: 20%

This assessment involves evidence of preparation for, participation in, and contribution to seminars and online discussion forums.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting.
- Investigate applications and strategies, including data mining, to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data.
- Manage and interpret complex or disparate sets of data to underpin business development, interpret risk, understand behavioural patterns, and detect suspicious or irregular behaviour.
- Examine issues and key principles of professional digital forensic practice, including chain of custody and best practice procedures.
- Diagnose and appraise mechanisms to uncover or recover evidence from digital devices to support litigation and investigations.

**Critical Essay**

Assessment Type 1: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 34 hours  
Due: Week 12  
Weighting: 40%
In this assessment students will be required to critically reflect on the key issues and principles of professional digital forensic practice in the recovery of digital evidence to support an investigation. The submission should not exceed 2500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine issues and key principles of professional digital forensic practice, including chain of custody and best practice procedures.
- Diagnose and appraise mechanisms to uncover or recover evidence from digital devices to support litigation and investigations.

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**

**Delivery**

This is an online unit. Details of assessments and online discussion forums will be available on iLearn.

**Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials**

The unit is based upon a selection of reading materials from text chapters. Reading material will be accessible via iLearn from the commencement of Session.

Seminars may make use of PowerPoint and videos.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>LO1:</strong> Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting</td>
<td>This week covers fundamental principles of financial analysis and emphasizes the importance of due diligence, explores the reasons for conducting financial analysis, discusses trust considerations, highlights additional factors, addresses financial analysis for non-experts, and concludes with a forward-looking perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>LO1:</strong> Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting</td>
<td>This week explores Analysis Tools for Investigators, beginning with an introduction. It delves into the reasons for using analysis tools, covering associational and temporal analysis, and concludes with a summarizing perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>LO1:</td>
<td>LO2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evaluate the theory, and principles of application, of data analytics skills and techniques relevant to forensic accounting</td>
<td>Investigate applications and strategies, including data mining, to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>This week explores Data-Driven Fraud Detection and covers errors and frauds, the data analysis process, software tools, data access, analysis techniques, outlier investigation, stratification, summarization, real-time analysis, and the analysis of financial statements.</td>
<td>This week explores Cash Receipts and Other Asset Misappropriations and covers skimming schemes for cash and receivables, cash larceny schemes, noncash misappropriation schemes, concealing inventory shrinkage, and methods for preventing and detecting noncash thefts concealed by fraudulent support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>This week explores Cash Disbursement Schemes and covers billing, check tampering, payroll, expense reimbursement, and register disbursement schemes—providing insights into fraudulent practices and strategies for prevention and detection.</td>
<td>Investigate applications and strategies, including data mining, to enable collection, assessment, review, production and presentation of unstructured data</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WEEK 6: Class Test 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>WEEK 7: Class Test 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>WEEK 8: Class Test 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>WEEK 9: Class Presentation 20%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>WEEK 10: Class Presentation 20%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>WEEK 11: Class Presentation 20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>WEEK 12: Critical Essay 40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/167763/unit_guide/print
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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 an
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 since First Published

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/02/2024</td>
<td>Mapping of LO to assessments</td>
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</table>

Unit information based on version 2024.04 of the Handbook