

UGBA W102A: Financial Accounting Summer 2020

Three (3) semester credits

Course Description

This required core course in Financial Accounting covers the accounting principles and methods (GAAP) used in preparing financial statements. It emphasizes the rationale for and implications of the fundamental accounting concepts. The objective is to help you understand the financial aspect of business operations. The course provides a foundation to critically analyze and interpret accounting data, and to use the data in various decision situations.

Although it is unavoidable that we devote time and effort on learning "accounting rules," the course will concentrate on general concepts and their applications. A combination of lectures, case studies, assignments, and practice problems will be used to enhance the learning of key accounting concepts and to illustrate the uses and misuses of financial reports.

Prerequisites

The course requires no prior academic knowledge of accounting, and it is designed accordingly.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Record, classify, and summarize financial information according to GAAP
- Prepare financial statements
- Understand how operating activities affect key accounts such as revenues, cost of goods sold, receivables, inventories, and fixed assets
- Understand how financing activities affect key accounts such as interest expenses, liabilities, and shareholders' equity

Instructor Information, Contact, Office Hours, & Communication

Course Instructor

Xiao-Jun Zhang

xzhang@haas.berkeley.edu (510) 642-4789

Assistant Instructor (AI)

Ahmet Cagin

ahmetcagin@berkeley.edu

While the instructor will interact with the whole class and will oversee all activities and grading, as well as being available to resolve any issues that may arise, the AI will be your main point of contact. Your AI is responsible for assisting you directly with your questions about assignments and course requirements. The AI will also facilitate ongoing discussion and interaction with you on major topics.

Office Hours and Communication

The course instructor and AI will offer synchronous virtual office hours via Zoom, a video conferencing program, at the following times:

Sundays, 10–11 am Pacific Time (5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28)

Links to the appropriate Zoom room will be available in the course website on bCourses.

You can also contact your AI and the course instructor via email. Emails will be responded to within 24-hours of receiving during the weekdays. Emails received on Friday will receive a response the following Monday.

Course Mail

Make sure to check the Course Mail for messages from the instructor. You can access course email within the Learning Management System by clicking on the Inbox link in the left-hand navigation (see also [Canvas Overview Video](#)) or choose to have your course mail forwarded to your personal email account or your cell phone.

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Materials

- Wallace, Nelson, Christensen, and Ferris. *Financial Accounting for Undergraduates*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge Business Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-61853-161-2.

Video Lectures

There are video lectures developed by the instructor provided in the course website on bCourses. You are required to watch all of the video lectures and should consider them part of the course's required materials.

Technical Requirements and Support

This course is built on a Learning Management system (LMS) called Canvas and you will need to meet these [computer specifications to participate within this online platform](#).

If you would like to participate in office hours or AI review sessions, you will need to at least have audio capabilities on your computer, and will also benefit from video by having a webcam. Instructions on how to access office hours and AI review sessions are available via the course website on bCourses.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please alert your AI immediately. However, understand that neither the AI nor the professor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately. Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with tech support. **Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to "technical difficulties"**.

24/7 technical support contact details, via email, phone, and ticket submissions, are located in the bCourses site under "Help."

Course Structure

The course is divided into three topics where you will have assigned reading from the textbook, video lectures, and the assignments and activities described below. Be sure to note the course outline for the general time period of each topic and refer to the course website in bCourses for exact due dates.

Assignments

Problem Sets

There will be five problem sets assigned in the course. You will receive the problem sets for each topic in the course website on bCourses. While you may discuss the problem sets with anyone, you are expected to solve the problems and write up the solutions on an individual basis. You are required to complete and submit each problem set regardless of your own pacing in the course.

Progress Evaluations

At the end of each week there is a progress evaluation, for a total of five progress evaluations in the course. Everyone is required to take all five progress evaluations. However, the progress evaluations are open for you to take at any time (before the end of the week). You are welcome to take the progress evaluation for the week when you feel ready to move on to the next week's materials, even if it is ahead of the course schedule. In order to move ahead to the next week in advance of the rest of the class, you must score 70% or above. This process allows you to skip topics where you already have proficiency and move ahead to the topics where you may need additional time. However, please note that even if you are able to skip a week, you are still required to submit the assigned problem sets.

Final Exam

Due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, all final exams for Summer Sessions 2020 will be taken online. In this situation, we must trust one another to uphold UC Berkeley's Code of Conduct, and act with academic integrity.

The final exam for this course will be completed online in bCourses. The exam will be available on July 1, 2020, for twenty-four hours.

Review the Final Exam Info tab in the left navigation menu of the course for more details.

There will be no make-up exam.

Activities

Self-Check Quizzes

Along with the video lectures and exercises there are ungraded, multiple-choice quizzes that will allow you to review the content covered in the lecture and receive immediate feedback. You are encouraged to take these quizzes as an opportunity to practice and confirm your understanding of the lecture content, though they will not impact your final grade.

AI Virtual Review Sessions

Every week, the AI will host virtual review sessions via Zoom covering information within the week's topic and offering an opportunity to ask questions. These sessions will be recorded for later review. Check the course website in bCourses for exact dates and times.

Textbook Exercises

Some selected exercise problems from the textbook are listed in the Course Outline section of this syllabus. You are NOT required to submit answers to these problems. You are encouraged to complete these exercises as additional practice. These are separate from the required problem sets you will complete and submit for a grade.

Grading and Course Policies

Your grade will be determined in the following way:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Problem Sets	20%
Progress Evaluations	30%
Final Exam	50%

Late Work Policy

As this is a fast-paced course, you will not be able to fall behind. It is your responsibility to complete class readings and assignments on time. ***There will be no allowance for late assignments. Assignments submitted after the due date will receive a grade of zero, no exceptions.*** All assignment due dates are listed in the course calendar.

Incomplete Course Grade

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the final exam, may request an incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing or by email to the AI and course instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances. According to the policy of the college, incomplete grades must be made up within the first three weeks of the next semester.

Academic Integrity and Ethics

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

This includes taking exams independently and submitting your own work on problem sets. You are welcome and encouraged to review the course materials with others and may discuss problem sets with others, but the work you submit must be your own.

Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing—furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity. Anyone caught cheating on an exam or problem sets in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct.

To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, explore the resources linked below:

[UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section](#)

[GSI Guide for Preventing Plagiarism](#)

Students with Disabilities

If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability, contact [UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#). Notify the instructor and GSI through course email of the accommodations you would like to use

UC Berkeley is committed to providing robust educational experiences for all learners. With this goal in mind, we have activated the ALLY tool for this course. You will now be able to download content in a format that best fits your learning preference. PDF, HTML, EPUB, and MP3 are now available for most content items. For more information visit the alternative formats link or watch the video entitled, "[Ally First Steps Guide](#)."

Course Evaluation

Course Evaluation

Before the course ends, please take a few minutes to participate in the course evaluation to share your opinions about the course. The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential.

Course Outline

You are welcome to advance through the content ahead of the course schedule, if you wish. However, Week 4 and later will be locked until June 8.

Topic 1: Fundamentals of Financial Reporting

Week 1

Readings: Textbook Chapters 1, 4, and 2 (58-64, 68-70)

Lectures: 1, 2, and 3

Problem Set: 1

Progress Evaluation: 1

Textbook Exercises: SE1-1, SE1-5, SE1-7, SE1-8, SE1-11, E1-5A, E1-10A, E1-13A, P1-3A, SE4-1, SE4-7, SE2-5, E2-1A, E2-3A, E2-14A, E2-15A, E2-16A

Week 2

Readings: Textbook Chapters 2 (65-67, 70-82) and 3

Lectures: 4 and 5

Problem Set: 2

Progress Evaluation: 2

Textbook Exercises: E2-2A, E2-5A, E2-10A, E2-11A, P2-3A, P2-10A, P2-12A, EYK2-3, EYK2-4, SE3-8, SE3-9, E3-5A, E3-7A, P3-10A, P3-15A, EYK3-3

Week 3

Readings: Textbook Chapters 11 and 12

Lectures: 6 and 7

Problem Set: 3

Progress Evaluation: 3

Textbook Exercises: E11-5A, P11-2A, EYK11-3, 11-5, SE12-1, SE12-2, SE12-3, SE12-8, SE12-10, E12-3A, E12-4A, P12-2A, P12-3A

Topic 2: Operating Activities

Week 4

Readings: Textbook Chapters 5, 8, 6, and 9

Lectures: 8, 9, and 10

Problem Set: 4

Progress Evaluation: 4

Textbook Exercises: SE5-4, SE5-11, P5-3A, EYK5-4, SE8-1, E8-1A, E8-2A, P8-1A, P8-2A, P8-3A, EKY8-3, EKY8-5, E6-8A, P6-4A, P6-11A, P6-12A, EYK6-3, EKY6-5, E9-3A, E9-7A, P9-5A, EKY9-1

Topic 3: Financing Activities

Week 5

Readings: Textbook Chapter 10 and Appendix E

Lectures: 11 and 12

Problem Set: 5

Progress Evaluation: 5

Textbook Exercises: SE10-2, SE10-5, SE10-6, SE10-7, E10-1A, E10-14A, E10-18A, P10-9A, EKY10-1, EKY10-3

Final Exam Preparation

Week 6

There are no new readings, lectures, or assignments this week. Use this week to review the course material to prepare for the final exam.

The Final Exam will be completed online, in bCourses. For more information about the exam, please refer to the Final Exam Information tab in bCourses.