

Masters in Accounting

Required Course Descriptions

MGT 533. EFFECTIVE MANAGERIAL COMMUNICATION

This course expands candidates' competencies in writing the emphatic and active voice style for different stakeholders, presenting under difficult or unplanned circumstances, evaluating the work of others and delivering constructive feedback, running better meetings, and writing and evaluating strategic documents. Candidates benefit from constructive feedback provided by the instructor and an international range of classmates. Assignments are drawn from real organizational cases requiring solid tactical thinking to ensure that communication is received well. Credit 1.5 units.

ACCT 503. Business Analysis Using Financial Statements

In this course we use concepts from financial accounting, finance, and strategy to develop models used by financial analysts in valuing equity securities (although we will focus on equity valuation, our approach is applicable to issues faced by managers considering investment opportunities). We will discuss/review a variety of models, including the dividend model, the free cash flow model, the method of comparables/multiples, and the asset-based valuation model. These more traditional models will be contrasted with the residual income valuation model, a relatively recent valuation innovation. Prerequisites: ACCT 562. Credit 1.5 units.

ACCT 503B. ADVANCED BUSINESS ANALYSIS USING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This course involves the application of the analysis skills from ACCT 503 (accounting analysis, cash flow analysis, and financial ratio analysis) to a variety of reporting contexts. These include security analysis, credit analysis, valuation analysis, financial policy analysis, and investor communications. For this course, cases will be used as the primary vehicle for achieving the learning objectives. PREREQUISITES: ACCT 503. Credit 1.5 units.

ACCT 555. Accounting Policy and Research

This course is designed for Students in the Masters in Accounting Program (MACC) and integrates material from previous accounting courses and professional experiences. This course will enable students to develop their knowledge and appreciation of current debates that surround the accounting profession. Students will develop critical thinking skills regarding these issues and form and defend opinions about contemporary regulatory and market issues. The course will also provide an opportunity for students to learn important technical and research tools used by accounting practitioners. Finally, students will get an appreciation of the primary methods underlying academic research in accounting. Prerequisites: ACCT 562. Students must be enrolled in the MACC program. Credit 3 units.

ACCT 562. FINANCIAL ACCT II (INTERMEDIATE ACCT)

Provides an in-depth analysis of financial accounting and reporting issues. Primary subject matter involves the issues of asset and liability valuation and income measurement. Topics include inventory accounting, valuation of long-term liabilities, and revenue and expense recognition. Also introduces the regulation of corporate accounting and reporting practices and their effects on users of financial statements. Credit 3 units (2 units in summer).

ACCT 563. FINANCIAL ACCT III (ADVANCED ACCT)

Corporate acquisitions, mergers, and the formation of other strategic alliances are staples of today's business environment. The objective of the first two-thirds of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the nature and financial reporting aspects of these complex business transactions. Specific topics include accounting for business combinations and consolidations, joint ventures and foreign currency translation and segmented and interim reporting. The final third of the course is intended to provide students with a general understanding of the unique accounting and financial reporting issues facing not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities. PREREQUISITE: ACCT 562.

ACCT 564. AUDITING

This course deals with the professional service industry of auditing. The auditing industry provides the service of objectively obtaining, evaluating, and communicating evidence regarding managerial assertions about economic events. Specifically, auditing ascertains the degree of correspondence between managerial assertions and established criteria. The course is organized around the basic categories of: (1) the economic role of external corporate auditing in securities markets, (2) the composition of the firms in the auditing industry, (3) the regulatory environment of auditing, (4) litigation issues facing the accounting/auditing industry, and (5) the requirements for conducting audits. Topics included in the last area include a consideration of the scope and application of Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and the general technology of auditing which are some general auditing topics typically covered on the CPA exam. Grading is based on homework, a group-based project, and two exams. PREREQUISITE: ACCT 562.

ACCT 567. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

This course provides an introduction to federal income taxation with primary emphasis on the tax implications of business transactions. The objectives of the course are to develop a basic understanding of federal income tax laws and to provide a framework for integrating income tax planning into the decision-making process. The course is of value to all students who need to recognize the important tax consequences of many common business transactions and is not intended solely for accounting majors or those students interested in becoming tax specialists. PREREQUISITE: ACCT 562.