

ACC 310F: Foundations of Accounting

Term: Self-Paced

Instructor: Gretchen Charrier

Course Description:

Accounting is a system of providing quantitative information about a company's financial performance and position to enable interested parties to make decisions. In this course we approach fundamental concepts in accounting from two key perspectives:

1. "insiders" who are employees/managers who need to make informed decisions about running the company and
2. "outsiders", such as investors or lenders, who want to decide whether to invest in the company or whether to maintain or increase previous investments they have made.

The insider's perspective is often referred to as *managerial accounting* and the outsider's perspective is called *financial accounting*. Throughout the course we will alternate between these two distinct points of view when introducing core accounting concepts.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

At UT Austin, this course may not be counted towards the Bachelor in Business Administration degree.

This course is conducted entirely online through the UT Canvas learning management system. You have five months from the time you enroll to complete the course.

Required Textbook:

The materials for this course (textbook(s), cases, readings, etc.) have been embedded electronically within the UT Canvas learning management system. Before accessing the course, you must pay for your materials via this portal. Upon completion of payment, you will be able to access all course content. No additional bookstore fees or payments are required.

UT Austin Flag Credit:

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You can expect a substantial portion of your grade in this course to come from your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

Course Outline:

There are 13 units in this course, which must be completed in order:

1. Identifying and Measuring Cost Benefits
2. Short-Horizon Decisions I

3. Short-Horizon Decisions II
4. Overview of Financial Accounting
5. The Recording Process
6. Adjusting Entries
7. Completing the Accounting Cycle
8. Long-Term Assets & Liabilities
9. Cost Flows
10. Budgeting & Forecasting
11. Long Horizon Decisions
12. Statement of Cash Flows
13. Performance Evaluation

Each unit is made up of lessons comprised of short videos in which we introduce important concepts in accounting followed by other resources such as readings, slideshows and case studies that enable you to further explore each topic.

Practice

You will informally test your understanding of the concepts with practice problems. Though they are referred to as “practice quizzes”, the emphasis is on *practice*; think of them like homework, which counts as 5% of your final grade. You get credit for completing them, regardless of whether you get the answer right or wrong. In fact, you are encouraged to retry the problems (i.e., practice!) until you are comfortable with the concepts presented and ready to move on. In addition, walkthrough problems offer examples to help you think through how best to approach the problems.

Review and Application

Use the unit summary to review key concepts. Then apply your new skills by answering questions in the *Ribs on the Run* exercise at the end of each unit. Overall, the *Ribs on the Run* exercises count for 10% of your final grade.

Assess Your Skills

At the end of each unit, you will take a multiple choice unit quiz to test your understanding of the concepts and application of skills. Here your answers count toward 35% of your final grade, so be sure to start the unit quiz after you have thoroughly completed and reviewed all of the unit content and are comfortable with the concepts.

Note regarding the difference between "unit quizzes" and "practice quizzes" in this course: Think of the practice quizzes as homework. They are worked problems that give you a chance to practice the new skills of a given lesson. You are encouraged to retry the problems (i.e., practice!) until you are comfortable with the concepts presented.

In contrast, the unit quizzes are made up of 10 multiple choice questions that test your mastery of key concepts from the unit. Start the unit quiz after you have completed and thoroughly reviewed all of the unit content and are comfortable with the concepts.

Final Exam

After you have completed the requirements for each of the 13 Units you will be required to take a final exam. The exam will be comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions and will count for 50% of your final grade. **You must pass the final exam to pass the course.**

You may use your textbook and notes for the practice quizzes, Ribs on the Run exercises and the unit quizzes, but the Final Exam is closed-book, closed-note. You are to follow all university policies regarding academic honesty.

Grading:

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

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|---------------------------|-----|
| Practice Quizzes | 5% |
| Ribs on the Run Exercises | 10% |
| Unit Quizzes | 35% |
| Final Exam | 50% |

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|---|-------|
| A | 100-93% | B+ | 89-87% | C+ | 79-77% | D+ | 69-67% | F | 59-0% |
| A- | 92-90% | B | 86-83% | C | 76-73% | D | 66-63% | | |
| | | B- | 82-80% | C- | 72-70% | D- | 62-60% | | |

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Getting Help

- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu or 512-471-2900

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.