

Program Assessment: *Annual Report*

Program: Master of Accounting Program

Department: Accounting

College/School: Chaifetz School of Business

Date: October 7, 2021

Primary Assessment Contact: Neil Jansen

1. Which program student learning outcomes were assessed in this annual assessment cycle?

All four learning outcomes identified in the Department of Accounting Assessment Plan are assessed during each two-year assessment cycle. Within the four learning outcomes, the department has identified several individual learning objectives. Each individual learning objective is assessed at least once during a two-year cycle to ensure the overwhelming majority of the Master of Accounting Students are assessed on every learning objective. One learning objective, "Evaluate business processes and assign risk", which resides in the larger learning outcome, "Technical Competency and Professional Knowledge", was not assessed during the current assessment cycle due to the cancellation of ACC 6440 – IT Audit.

2. What data/artifacts of student learning were collected for each assessed outcome? Were Madrid student artifacts included?

- 1.LO1a: ACCT6110 (F19) – Completion of a comprehensive homework assignment
 LO1b: ACCT6340 (F19) – Completion of partnership tax return form 1065
 LO1c: MGT4500(S21) –Essay questions given during weekly tests, and individual presentations
 LO1d: ACCT6440(F20) - Was not assessed due to cancellation of ACC 6440 during Fall 2020 semester.
- 2.LO2a: ACCT6110(F19)– Complex problem relative to governmental accounting to demonstrate difference between financial and government accounting. ACCT6450(F19) – Evaluation of in-class presentations on roles and responsibilities of specific member of the Financial Reporting Supply Chain.
 LO2b: ACCT6190(S21) – 2 separate projects with written and oral presentations covering financial and accounting analysis and comprehensive financial statement analysis and firm valuation.
 LO2c: ACCT 6110(F19) – Assessed from students answering series of detailed questions relating to governmental and not-for-profit accounting. ACCT6450 (F19) - Oral communication assessed via answering directed questions and evaluation of in-class presentations.
- 3.LO3a: ACCT5910(S20) – Intern Performance Evaluation completed by internship site supervisor.
- 4.LO4a: ACCT 6340(F19) – Examined cases for ethical implications related to Standards on Tax Practice (AICPA). ACCT6450 (F19) - Read and analyze an SEC investigation/enforcement matter and actors in Financial Reporting Supply Chain who properly or improperly discharges their

duties.

LO4b: ACCT6450(F19)– Prepare a paper based on reading The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron. ACC5910(S20) - Intern Performance Evaluation completed by internship site supervisor.

3. How did you analyze the assessment data? What was the process? Who was involved?

NOTE: If you used rubrics as part of your analysis, please include them in an appendix.

Assessment of each course is administered individually by the course instructor using assessment tools that have been vetted by department faculty at the time they were developed, and again upon each use of the assessment tool. Students are assessed on each learning objective using standardized rubrics created and approved by department faculty, and are evaluated as either; exceeding expectations, meeting expectations, or needs improvement. Assessment results for each course are presented at a department meeting in the subsequent semester, where faculty have the opportunity to discuss the assessment tool and results. At this time, the instructor and department decide whether any adjustments to the assessment tool or course instruction is necessary. Formal documentation of the assessment materials are also provided to the assessment coordinator for inclusion in centralized storage and for presentation to the Dean's office. For external internships, we also use the formal evaluation forms completed by the internship supervisor as documentation of meeting learning objectives.

4. What did you learn from the data? Summarize the major findings of your analysis for each assessed outcome.

NOTE: If necessary, include any tables, charts, or graphs in an appendix.

LO1 (a – d):

ACCT 6110: The students demonstrated a very solid understanding of recording the entries necessary to complete a complex business combination. 90% of the students scored $\geq 75\%$ on the comprehensive problem, while the average score for the problem was 88%. Given the problem covered the most complex transaction that was discussed in class, the instructor believes that the assessment is appropriate and will be used in future assessment.

ACCT 6340: The instructor determined that the students clearly understood the information necessary to complete Form 1065, as evidenced by the accuracy of their responses. Page 1 of the return was completed with 100% accuracy by all students, while pages 2 through 5 had accuracy averages of 86% - 88%. In future offerings of the course, the instructor will continue to focus on the material relative to Form 1065 to insure students continue to grasp the material in the same manner.

MGT 4500: Students met or exceeded expectations on all legal topics subject to assessment and included in the weekly short essay tests. A success rate of 75% or greater was used to deem success on the individual questions, given this is the percentage required to successfully complete the CPA examination. Using the written communication rubric, it was determined that the students met or exceeded expectations in all assessed attributes. The percentage of students that did not meet expectations was 15% or less for all assessed attributes.

ACCT 6440: Was not assessed due to cancellation of ACC 6440 during Fall 2020 semester.

LO2 (a -c):

ACCT 6110: The students performed very well on a complex problem which required them to create journal entries on an accrual or modified accrual basis by analyzing trial balance activity, effectively working backwards from how they would handle the situation in a real world environment.

ACCT 6190: The assessment results demonstrate that the students had a solid understanding of various topics related to financial statement analysis. The students were able to apply the knowledge learned in this course to analyze financial statements and estimate firm value, and think critically about the related issues. Furthermore, they were able to communicate the analysis and results effectively both orally and in writing.

ACCT 6450: Each student team demonstrated team collaboration skills in compiling material for their presentation and exhibited good presentation skills in the presentation itself.

LO3a:

ACCT 5910: For the Spring and Summer 2020 semesters, 9 MACC student had for-credit internships. The overall evaluation scores and comments provided by employers, along with the job offers that the students received, indicate that the learning objectives are being met and that our students have the technical and soft skills required to succeed in a professional environment.

LO4 (a – b):

ACCT 6340: The instructor determined through classroom discussions that the students as a whole were able to identify ethical issues and determine appropriate responses.

ACCT 6450: The assessment results were very positive. The students demonstrated the ability to isolate those members of the Financial Reporting Supply Chain who failed in the discharge of their specific roles and responsibilities in each specific SEC investigation / enforcement case and to identify what steps might have prevented the specific fraud from occurring.

ACCT 6450: The students were very engaged in this project and their interest in it was evident in the comments made in class during the discussion of this book. The students' enthusiasm for this book, by their own admission, engaged them and made the learning process more interesting.

ACCT 5910: See notes above in section LO3a.

5. How did your analysis inform meaningful change? How did you *use the analyzed data to make or implement recommendations for change* in pedagogy, curriculum design, or your assessment plan?

Upon discussion of each individual course assessment during subsequent department meetings, the following changes were agreed upon for future implementation:

ACCT 6450: Students will be required to submit a first draft of the requirements for written assignments one week prior to the final assignment being due in hopes of stemming some of the writing issues that have occurred in past assessments. Students will be required to approach written presentations from the perspective of assigning a grade to each member of the Financial Reporting Supply Chain for its discharge of its roles and responsibilities in the Enron fraud.

ACCT 6340: Special attention will be given in future classes to increase the difficulty of the questions regarding the tax return to ensure we are being appropriately rigorous in determining meeting expectations. Classroom discussions will be implemented to ensure that the students as a whole were able to identify ethical issues and determine appropriate responses, with a plan to develop a rubric to measure learning in these areas of covering ethical issues and codes of conduct for future course offerings.

ACCT 6110: Focus on teaching the students how to properly identify the appropriate use of modified accrual accounting for governmental entities, as well as to focus on the steps necessary to complete an accurate consolidation worksheet.

ACCT 6190: To help better prepare project reports and oral presentations, students will be informed in advance of the common problems that were observed with former students.

ACCT 5190: We will continue to closely monitor evaluations submitted by internship supervisors, as well as to review the number of students who offered full-time positions upon completion of their internships.

MGT 4500: The instructor believes the assessment tools are appropriate, and will therefore focus lecture time on topics where student assessment results were marginal.

6. Did you follow up (“close the loop”) on past assessment work? If so, what did you learn? *(For example, has that curriculum change you made two years ago manifested in improved student learning today, as evidenced in your recent assessment data and analysis?)*

ACCT 5910: To insure employers continue to desire SLU students for internships and professional positions, we will continue to insure that both technical skills and soft skills are stressed in graduate accounting courses prior to students completing internships. Essentially, this will be determined by insuring we are consistently meeting assessment goals in courses completed prior to the internship. The current assessment procedures will continue to be used going forward.

ACCT 6450: Providing a presentation rubric ahead of time to students seemed to provide a good foundation for presentations, so that practice will be continued going forward.

MGT 4500: The instructor is satisfied with the results of the assessment; however, future monitoring will determine whether a different pedagogical approach needs to be used for these topics.

ACCT 6340: In future offerings of the course, the instructor will continue to focus on the material relative to Form 1065 to insure students continue to grasp the material in the same manner.

ACCT 6190: Overall, the students did a good job in both reports and presentation. In particular, the reports showed that the students had a good understanding of the related course topics. To help students better prepare their project reports and oral presentations in the future, they will be informed in advance of expectations and issues experienced in prior offerings of the course.

ACCT 6110: The results of the comprehensive governmental accounting and business combination problems will be monitored closely each semester, whether they are used for assessment or not. This will insure that the students are indeed understanding the material before additional topics are addressed.

IMPORTANT: Please submit any revised/updated assessment plans to the University Assessment Coordinator along with this report.