



University
of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

ACCT233 – Fundamentals of Accounting for Financial Decisions

Course Outline | Whakamārama Akoraka

Semester One 2025



**Department of Accountancy and Finance
Te Tari Matauraka Kaute Putea**

**Level 5
Otago Business School – Te Kura Pakihi**

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Nau Mai Haere Mai

Welcome | Afio Mai | Aere Mai | Mālō e me'a mai | Fakatalofa atu | Bula | Fakalofa lahi atu | Ulu tonu mai

Course Description and Aims | *Whāinga o te Akoranga*

What we teach

This paper provides students with an understanding of the nature of the firm's financial decisions and the role of accounting inputs in these decisions. It is also concerned with preparing and using accounting information for internal and external financial decision-making. The paper will focus on developing financial knowledge and fundamental skills, including the extensive use of Excel spreadsheet skills for building and applying financial decision models, concerning a financial manager's key responsibilities.

Learning Outcomes | *Hua Akoranga*

What you Learn

Upon successful completion of this paper, you should be able to use the financial tools and techniques, and other skills necessary to undertake important financial management decisions to help maximise a firm's value.

Students who successfully complete this paper will be able to:

1. Evaluate financial decisions based on the time value of money.
2. Compute the expected rate of return and risk for investment and discuss the risk and return trade-off.
3. Evaluate long-term investment management by considering the concepts behind the cost of capital, and undertake capital budgeting to determine optimal investment opportunities.
4. Analyse and interpret financial statements using financial ratios.
5. Prepare and evaluate financial planning and forecasting by constructing spreadsheets about cash budget and forecast of financial information.
6. Implement optimal working capital management structures.
7. Evaluate a firm's capital structure and payout policy.
8. Develop spreadsheets to convey financial information.

Teaching Team | *Kaiako*

Course Coordinator and Lecturer

Name: Dr Zihan Liu
Office: OBS 5.08
Email: zihan.liu@otago.ac.nz
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3pm - 4pm & Fridays 11am - 12pm

Expectations and Workload | *Te Nui o te Mahi*

This course conforms to the 18-point course format comprising approximately 180 hours spent in class, private study, preparing assignments, and other activities.

We expect you to come to each session of lectures, tutorials, and computer labs prepared. You should have pens, paper, and a networked device (e.g., phones, tablets, or laptops).

Course Information | *Mōhiohio akoranga*

How we teach

Lectures

Lecture Day/Time: check eVision

Lectures present the key conceptual material through discussion and interaction between teaching staff and students. Lectures are supported by readings. To your benefit, you read the essential readings **BEFORE** each lecture, take notes during the lecture, and review your notes and readings afterwards. This will help you significantly improve your understanding and reinforce your learning of the subject matter.

Tutorials

Tutorial Day/Time: check eVision

Tutorials are interactive, collaborative sessions in which students attempt to cement concepts presented at lectures with their peers in a supportive environment. Tutorials offer you an opportunity to work in groups on a series of tasks designed to apply the concepts that you have been exposed to in class and from your readings. The key feature of tutorials, as opposed to lectures and individual study, is the participation of all members of the tutorial group. Please prepare for tutorials before going to them.

Tutorials are conducted each week commencing in the second week of the semester. Upon enrolment, you will be assigned to a tutorial stream, which you can find in your eVision portal under "Timetables." All tutorials will take place on-campus at the designated times and locations.

Computer Labs

Computer Lab Day/Time: check eVision

Computer lab sessions are designed to advance your computer skills. These sessions offer you an opportunity to gain hands-on experience using financial modelling built into Microsoft Excel. In some lab sessions, you are required to watch demonstrations available from GoSkills or Youtube, followed by practices. Please remember to bring your headset. GoSkills is free for all University of Otago staff and students. You can register your GoSkills account via the link: <https://university-of-otago.goskills.com/signup/6qwc7tz2fg>. From this link you will now need to create your account using your Otago email address (The email address for your account must end in **otago.ac.nz**).

TEN computer labs start from the second week of the semester. Upon enrolment, you will be assigned to a computer lab stream, which you can find in your eVision portal under "Timetables." All computer labs will take place on-campus at the designated times and locations.

Change of Tutorial/Computer Lab Stream

Please note that stream change requests will only be accepted during the first two weeks of the semester. The deadline for submitting requests is 17 March at 15:00. Students who wish to change streams can do so in the Accountancy and Finance department between 10 - 11am and 2 - 3pm each day for the first two weeks of the semester or email Accountancy Finance accountancyfinance@otago.ac.nz to change their tutorial/lab streams. Students must provide their student ID number, paper code, and tutorial they would like to change into.

Learning Resources | *Rauemi Ako*

Textbook

Principal of Managerial Finance, Chad J. Zutter and Scott Smart, Global Edition (16e), Pearson, 2021

University approved calculator

CASIO FX82, CASIO FX100, CASIO FX95, CASIO FX570, Casio FX991 or SHARP EL531

Blackboard

We use Blackboard <https://blackboard.otago.ac.nz/> for teaching, learning, community building and knowledge sharing.

Course Calendar | *Maramataka*

Your academic road map

Please NOTE: ACCT233 you can access lecture recordings through your Blackboard.

YW	Week & Lecture Themes	Week starting	Tutorial	Lab	Assessment due dates and important dates
9	1 Time Value of Money (TVM) and Valuation of Bonds and Stock (VBS) (Chapters 5, 6.4 and 7.3)	24 Feb	No tutorial	No lab	
10	2 Ratio Analysis (Chapter 3)	3 Mar	TVM and VBS	Data Entry, Formatting, and Printing	

YW	Week & Lecture Themes	Week starting	Tutorial	Lab	Assessment due dates and important dates
11	3 Financial Planning and Forecasting (Chapter 4)	10 Mar	Ratio Analysis	Cell Referencing and Math Functions	
12	4 Working Capital Management I (Chapter 15)	17 Mar	Financial Planning and Forecasting	Logical Functions and Statistical Functions	
13	5 Working Capital Management II (Chapters 15 and 16)	24 Mar	Working Capital Management I	Cash Budgeting	
14	6 Working Capital Management III (Chapter 16)	31 Mar	Working Capital Management II	Account Receivables Management	In-semester test #1
15	7 Capital Budgeting I (Chapter 10)	7 Apr	Working Capital Management III	Financial Function I	
16	8 Capital Budgeting II (Chapter 11 and Chapter 12, pp.612-614)	14 Apr	Capital Budgeting I	Financial Function II	Good Friday 18 Apr
Semester Break 21 to 25 April 2025					
18	9 Cost of Capital (Chapter 9)	28 Apr	Capital Budgeting II	Capital Budgeting	
19	10 Leasing (Chapter 17.2)	5 May	Cost of Capital	Estimate Cost of Capital	In-semester test #2
20	11 Leverage Analysis (Chapter 12, pp.595-599; Chapter 13, pp.642-647)	12 May	Leasing	Leverage Analysis	
21	12 Capital Structure Concepts (Chapter 13)	19 May	Leverage Analysis		
22	13 Buffer Class	26 May	Capital Structure Concepts		

Assessments | *Aromatawai*

Growth and Progress Milestones

Please note that all presented material is subject to examination (unless specified otherwise). Course content may be assessed through assignments, in-semester tests and the final examination. Essential assessment details, including due dates, guidelines, and other relevant information, will be communicated during lectures and, where applicable, provided on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed, monitor their progress, and catch up on any missed classes.

For detailed information on each assessment, visit the Assessment Tab on Blackboard. It's important to familiarise yourself with our **Academic Integrity Policy and the APA citations** and referencing guide.

Assessment	Due date	% of final grade
1. In-Semester Tests	Week 6 & Week 10	50%
2. Final Exam	TBA (Final Exam Period)	50%
Total		100%

In-Semester Tests – 50%

- Two in-semester tests are scheduled. The first test is in Week 6, and the second is in Week 10.
- Each test is 80 minutes long and is worth 25% of the grade.
- A formula sheet will be provided (it may not be exhaustive). You are required to bring along a university-approved calculator to the tests.

Final Exam – 50%

- The final exam is a 180-minute exam held in the final examination period.
- **All topics** taught in this paper will be examined in the final exam. (NOTE: Topics covered in the in-semester tests will be re-examined in the final exam.)
- A formula sheet will be provided (it may not be exhaustive). You are required to bring along a university-approved calculator to the exam.

What if I need tech support

If you require technical support, please contact Ask IT

ITS support service

Email: student.it@otago.ac.nz

Phone: (03) 479 7000 or 0800 80 80 98

Aligning Learning Outcomes with Assessments

Learning Outcome	In-Semester Tests	Final Exam	Total
Evaluate financial decisions based on time value of money	√	√	
Compute the expected rate of return and risk for an investment and discuss the risk and return trade-off	√	√	
Evaluate long-term investment management by considering the concepts behind the cost of capital, and undertake capital budgeting to determine optimal investment opportunities	√	√	
Develop spreadsheets to convey financial information	√	√	
Analyse and interpret financial statements using financial ratios	√	√	
Prepare and evaluate financial planning and forecasting by constructing spreadsheets in relation to cash budget and forecast of financial information	√	√	
Implement optimal working capital management structures	√	√	
Evaluate the firm capital structure and payout policy	√	√	
Total	50%	50%	100%

Grading System

The grading scheme used at Otago is:

A+	90-100	C+	60-64
A	85-89	C	55-59
A-	80-84	C-	50-54
B+	75-79	D	40-49
B	70-74	E	<40
B-	65-69		

Referencing | *Tohutoro*

In this course, we adhere to the APA referencing style, a vital skill that showcases your commitment to academic integrity and respect for other scholars' work. Accurate referencing not only demonstrates your scholarly diligence but also enables readers to trace the sources you've used, enriching the academic conversation.

To master the APA style, visit the University Library website for comprehensive style guides: http://otago.libguides.com/citation_styles. Additionally, you can find valuable resources in the Assessments Tab on Blackboard.

Academic Integrity | *Pono-ā-wānanga*

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, submitting work written by someone else (including from a file sharing website, text generation software, or purchased work) taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity, or ask at the Student Learning Centre (HEDC) or the Library, or seek advice from your paper co-ordinator.

For further information on academic integrity at Otago:

Academic Integrity Policy

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

Student Academic Misconduct Procedures

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

A note about Artificial Intelligence: In ACCT233 the use of artificial intelligence is prohibited. Due to the type of learning required, the specific skills and tasks in this paper will expect you (or your teams) to autonomously undertake the work. Any use of an artificial intelligence tool would inhibit your ability to achieve workplace-level competency and would breach academic integrity standards for this paper.

For further information on artificial intelligence at Otago:

Use of Generative-Artificial Intelligences and Autonomous Content Generation in Learning and Teaching Policy

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/policy-collection/use-of-generative-artificial-intelligences-and-autonomous-content-generation-in-learning-and-teaching-policy>

Class Representatives | *Māngai mō te Akoranga*

The class (or student) representative system is an avenue for encouraging communication and consultation between staff and students. It provides you with a vehicle for communicating your views on the teaching and delivery of the course and provides staff with an opportunity to communicate information and gain constructive feedback from students. It contributes to developing a sense of community within a department and adds a further dimension to the range of support services offered to students.

Volunteers for class representatives will be called early in the semester. The OUSA invites all class representatives to a training session conducted by OUSA about what it means to be a class representative, and some of the possible procedures for dealing with issues that arise. They also provide information on the services that OUSA offers and the role OUSA can play in solving problems that may occur. The OUSA provides support to class representatives during the semester. Department staff will also meet with class representatives during the semester to discuss general issues or matters they wish to have considered.

Your class representative's name and contact details will be posted on Blackboard early in the semester.

Need help? | *Kei te hia āwhina?*

For extenuating circumstances or ongoing situations

If you are facing health or other challenging circumstances, it is important to reach out. The University of Otago prides itself on the support we can provide to our students, but we can only help if you let us know.

For further information:

OUSA student support

<https://www.ousa.org.nz/support>

University of Otago student support

https://www.otago.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/317325/download-the-student-support-reference-for-staff-poster-838564.pdf

Disclaimer | *Kupu Whakatonu*

While every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, it is subject to change. Changes will be notified in class and via Blackboard. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard regularly. It is the student's responsibility to be informed.