

Graduate Program

Master of Professional Accountancy

1. What Was Done

The MPAc Program faculty assessed technical competency with respect to financial accounting and reporting, and understanding of the business environment, in ACTG 536, Advanced Accounting, in fall 2015. Specific topics assessed were:

- Introduction to foreign currency
- Course-relevant current events (domestic and global)
- Introduction to business combinations
- Stock acquisitions and consolidated financial statements (in-depth)
- Foreign currency-denominated transactions and forward contracts
- Translation of foreign currency-denominated financial statements
- Partnerships and related entities

2. What Data Were Collected

Student results on selected exam questions and problems were used in order to evaluate individual student learning outcomes. For all Technical Competency learning outcomes the individual student's total raw score percentage and the following rubric were used:

Exceeds Expectations:	90 -100%
Meets Expectations:	70 - 89%
Below Expectations:	< 70%

Approximately 10% of each of the four exams assessed individual learning outcomes for knowledge of the business environment. A more rigorous rubric for *Meets Expectations (80-90%)* and *Below Expectations (< 80%)* was used than was used for Technical Competency because in most cases students had the option to respond to a specific number of prompts on the current events topics but were generally not required to respond to all items. The rubric used for the Business Environment exam questions was:

Exceeds Expectations:	90 -100%
Meets Expectations:	80 - 89%
Below Expectations:	< 80%

3. What Was Learned

It is the goal of the MPAc program that 80% of students meet or exceed expectations with respect to each learning goal. The results of the assessment of technical competency show that students meet this goal on about half of the topics while they are fairly close to the goal on the other half. Given the small size of the MPAc program (enrollment of only 29 in ACTG 536 in fall 2015), only a handful of students can significantly affect the assessments. The assessments do suggest, however, that our students' understanding of some of the topics should be stronger.

Fall 2015

Introduction to Foreign Currency			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	10	36%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	15	54%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	3	11%
	Total		28	100%
Exceeds + Meets			89%	

Knowledge of Business Environment/Current Events			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	19	76%
	<i>Meets Expectations*</i>	80% - 89%	6	24%
	<i>Below Expectations*</i>	< 80%	0	0%
	Total		25	100%
Exceeds + Meets			89%	

Business Combinations: Mergers			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	20	71%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	8	29%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	0	0%
	Total		28	100%
Exceeds + Meets			100%	

Business Combinations: Stock Acquisitions			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	12	43%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	8	29%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	8	29%
	Total		28	100%
Exceeds + Meets*			71%	

*For Fall 2015, three students withdrew from the course. If we base results on only the students who completed the course (under the assumption that those who withdrew did so because they were struggling: **Exceeds + Meets 76%**)

Business Combinations: Acquisition Costs and Expenses			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	9	32%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	11	39%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	8	29%
	Total		28	100%
Exceeds + Meets			71%	

*For Fall 2015, three students withdrew from the course. If I based results on only the students who completed the course (under the assumption that those who withdrew did so because they were struggling: **Exceeds + Meets 72%**)

Stock Acquisitions & Consolidated Financial Statements			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	5	20%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	15	60%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	5	20%
	Total		25	100%
Exceeds + Meets				80%

Foreign Currency Denominated Transactions Average of problem & short answer questions			Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	52%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	34%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	14%
	Total		100%
Exceeds + Meets			80%

Fall 2015

Translation of Foreign Currency Denominated Financial Statements			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	8	32%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	14	56%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	3	12%
	Total		25	100%
Exceeds + Meets				88%

Fall 2015

Partnerships and Related Entities			Number of students	Percentage of students
	Exceeds Expectations	90% - 100%	6	24%
	Meets Expectations	70% - 89%	11	44%
	Below Expectations	< 70%	8	32%
	Total		25	100%
Exceeds + Meets				68%

The low results for partnerships and related entities may be explained by the fact that the topic was covered at the end of the semester when there was not sufficient time to do it justice.

4. How We Responded

For the next edition of ACTG 536, the instructor will review ways to better help students understand the areas in which students in Fall 2015 performed below the MPAC programs goals, i.e. Business Combinations: Stock Acquisitions and Acquisition Costs and Expenses, and partnerships and related entities.