



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Forensic Accounting

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
ACC	8106	75400	1, 2008	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOBUS
Academic org:	FOB008
Student contribution band:	3A
ASCED code:	080101

STAFFING

Examiner: Joseph Mula
Moderator: Peter Best

OTHER REQUISITES

Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm>.

SYNOPSIS

In an environment of increasing corporate collapse many organisations are turning to professionals with forensic investigation skills. Executives and senior management are becoming more aware of the need to incorporate forensic accounting as part of their corporate governance strategy to combat fraud and corruption. This course will provide students with an understanding of how fraud can lead to organisation loss and possible failure. Students will gain appropriate forensic investigation skills and techniques in order to be able to undertake a forensics examination within an organisational context. In addition the course will highlight inadequacies in organisations' control systems and how to adequately design controls to mitigate against fraud. By undertaking this course you will also personally gain skills that allow you to scrutinise published financial statements before making investment decisions.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that MAY be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the nature of forensic accounting as well as theoretical and practical knowledge identifying relevance to current issues facing organisations and the profession (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Discussions/Presentations);
2. demonstrate the application of a forensics accounting examination of an organisational and/or operational problem (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Discussions/Presentations);

- critically evaluate the usefulness of a forensic examination in enhancing the operations and effectiveness of detecting and preventing fraud in an organisational context (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Discussions/Presentations).

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Forensic accounting and fraud examination - an introduction & overview	15.00
2.	Fraud committed on behalf of organisations - detection	20.00
3.	Fraud investigation	10.00
4.	Fraud committed against an organisation	15.00
5.	Fraud committed against/by individuals	15.00
6.	Resolution, reporting and review	15.00
7.	Impact of fraud	5.00
8.	Future direction of forensic investigation	5.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Albrecht, WS, Albrecht, CC & Albrecht, CO 2006, *Fraud examination*, 2nd edn, Thomson, Mason, Ohio.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

In addition to the textbook above, students are expected to refer to relevant professional and academic journals to enhance their knowledge. For completion of the assignments, students are to refer to materials beyond the set text and recommended references cited below. Some of the journals in various university libraries that would be of interest are also cited below.

Recommended journals: Journal of Forensic Accounting: Auditing, Fraud, and Risk (JFA); Computer Fraud and Security; Forensic Science; Forensic Science International; Environmental Forensics.

Clarke, F & Dean, G 2007, *Indecent disclosure: gilding the corporate lily*, Cambridge University Press, New York.

Commonwealth Government *Fraud control policy*, 2nd edn,

(Guidelines available at

<http://www.universityofsouthernqueensland.edu.au/academic/vap/34200E125FCS9DB7A1770CID0A5-commonwealth-fraud-control-guidelines.pdf>
file name - commonwealth-fraud control guidelines.pdf)

Dellaportas, S, Gibson, K, Alagiah, R, Hutchinson, M, Leung, P & Van Homrigh, D 2005, *Ethics, governance and accountability: a professional perspective*, John Wiley & Sons, Milton, Queensland.

Freckelton, I & Selby, H 2005, *Expert evidence: law, practice, procedures and advocacy*, 3rd edn, Lawbook Co, Pyrmont, New South Wales.

Golden, TW, Skalak, SL & Clayton, MM 2006, *A guide to forensic accounting investigation*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Hoffman, R, Finney, W, Cox, P & Cooper, K 2007, *The accountant as an expert witness: a basic guide to forensic accounting*, CCH Australia, Sydney, New South Wales.

Hopwood, WS, Leiner, JJ & Young, GR 2008, *Forensic accounting*, McGraw Hill/Irwin, Boston, Massachusetts.

Koletar, JW 2003, *Fraud exposed: what you don't know could cost your company millions*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Silverstone, H & Davia, HR 2005, *Fraud 101: techniques and strategies for detection*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Silverstone, H & Sheetz, M 2007, *Forensic accounting and fraud investigations for non-experts*, 2nd edn, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Singleton, T, Singleton, A, Bologna, G & Lindquist, R 2006, *Fraud auditing and forensic accounting*, 3rd edn, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Wells, J (ed) 2007, *Fraud casebook: lessons from the bad side of business*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Wells, JT 2005, *Principles of fraud examination*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Zack, GM 2003, *Fraud and abuse in nonprofit organizations: a guide to prevention and detection*, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	40.00
Directed Study	55.00
Private Study	70.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	100.00	30.00	23 Apr 2008
DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS	100.00	20.00	13 Jun 2008 (see note 1)
ASSIGNMENT 2	100.00	50.00	18 Jun 2008

NOTES

1. Details of allocation of marks is provided on the course StudyDesk.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
If you are an international student in Australia, you are advised to attend all classes at your campus. For all other students, there are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval of the examiner, then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must obtain at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination for this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Not applicable.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Student Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene university regulations. These regulations can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm>. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Policies and Procedures which can be found at <http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm>.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each assignment submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required by the examiner. (iii) In accordance with University's assignment extension, the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. If students submit assignments after the due date and wish to claim extenuating circumstances then they shall provide validated documentary evidence with the assignment, explaining the circumstances. The examiner shall consider the statement accompanying a late assignment and decide on the outcome. (iv) Assignments are to be submitted electronically. No paper-based assignments will be accepted. (v) The examiner will normally only accept assessments that have been typed and sent electronically. (vi) Students who do not have regular access to the Internet or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner to negotiate such special arrangements. (vii) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience.
- 2 Course weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to the number of marks allocated to questions testing those topics in an assignment.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Computer and Internet access: Students undertaking this course must have unfettered access to a personal computer and the Internet both during working hours and out of working hours. Appropriate software including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access) needs to be loaded on the computer being used for the course. In addition, as discussions and presentations will be undertaken using the Internet, students are required to have a web camera and headset (or microphone and speakers) to facilitate interaction. Other software and applications will be identified on the course website.
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