



MODULE DIFFICULTY GUIDEBOOK

19TH ASOC MC

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

NOTE ON THE MODULE DIFFICULTY GUIDEBOOK

This Guidebook is meant to aid students in academic planning. Information here was gathered through surveys with students who had previously taken the modules.

To gain a more representative picture for some modules, we also surveyed Professors teaching those courses. This information is italicised.

For information on pre-requisites and curriculum requirements, students are advised to keep updated on the latest changes via OASIS, BOSS and emails from the School.

The ASoc Academic Department would like to thank all students and SoA Professors who have assisted us in the development of this guidebook. We hope this guide will be of great help to you in your academic planning and bidding.

Disclaimer:

This book is a student-led project that serves to supplement current and readily available information about SMU Accounting Modules. Please do your own individual research into the modules by checking in with seniors, professors, and other external sources.

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IS452 Blockchain Applications in Financial Services
IS1453 Financial Analytics
CS440 Foundations of Cyber Security
LGST236 Financial Crime
LAW307 Law of Evidence
LAW492 Dispute Resolution: The Role of Experts
FNCE234 Real Estate Valuation and Taxation
FNCE315 Analytics in Finance and Real Estate

COURSE SEQUENCE (RECOMMENDED TERM)

Accounting Modules	Suggested Timeline by SoA
ACCT111 Financial Accounting	Pre-assigned for students during Y1S1
ACCT112 Management Accounting	Pre-assigned for students during Y1S2
OBHR101 Management of People at Work	Pre-assigned for students during Y1
LGST101 Business Law	Pre-assigned for students during Y1
COR-STAT1202 Introductory Statistics	Recommended to take from Y1 to Y2
ACCT221 Accounting Information Systems	Recommended to take in Y2
ACCT223 Taxation	
ACCT224 Financial Reporting and Analysis	
FNCE101 Finance	Recommended to take from Y2 to Y3
FNCE102 Financial Markets and Investments	
MGMT102 Strategy	
LGST201 Company Law	
COR3302 Ethics and Social Responsibility for Accounting (Uni Core)	Recommended to take from Y2 to Y4

COURSE SEQUENCE

(RECOMMENDED TERM)

Accounting Modules	Suggested Timeline by SoA
ACCT331 Audit and Assurance	Recommended to take in Y3/Y4
ACCT332 Accounting Thought and Governance	
ACCT334 Intermediate Financial Accounting	
ACCT335 Advanced Financial Accounting	
ACCT336 Valuation	
ACCT337 Statistical Programming	

COURSE OFFERINGS (BACC)

An online portal on OASIS [BOSS - Bidding Online System] that allows students to check for the latest class offerings for all modules.

Students can access the portal through navigating via OASIS [here](#).

OASIS > BOSS > Courses & Schedules > Course Offerings, Class Hours & Attendance > Related Links: Course Offerings > 2023-2024 > School of Accountancy Courses

Students can also refer to the School of Accountancy website [here](#) to check out the course structure as well as list of modules required for graduation.

Important note for all students:

Please note that the School plans the courses by academic year and not by term. There will definitely be enough slots for the entire academic year but not all students will get their preferred choices in any specific term.

For example, if Term 1 classes are full, students can plan to bid for courses in Term 2 instead.

Note: Classes with small class enrolment may be cancelled as per SMU policy.

2ND MAJORS

2ND MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING DATA AND ANALYTICS (BACC)

In AY 2018/19, the School of Accountancy launched a new second major in Accounting Data and Analytics. The courses in this second major aim to teach the data technologies and analytics skills relevant to accounting professionals, as technological advancements are influencing the work processes and scope in the accounting profession.

Depending on how students plan their modules, they will need to take minimally NIL to three additional modules to graduate with this major.

An official FAQ guide can be accessed via OASIS:

OASIS > Academic > SOA Resources > SOA 2nd Majors

2ND MAJOR IN FINANCIAL FORENSICS (BACC)

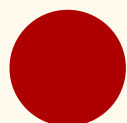
In AY 2020/21, the School of Accountancy launched a new second major in Financial Forensics. The courses in this second major aim to teach students three domain of knowledge, advanced accounting technical competency, technology and analytics capability, and fundamental legal understanding in related areas, to equip them with the critical skills to combat illegal financial activities and fraud.

Depending on how students plan their modules, they will need to take minimally two to five additional modules to graduate with this major.

An official FAQ guide can be accessed via OASIS:

OASIS > Academic > SOA Resources > SOA 2nd Majors

FOR INTAKES AY2019 ONWARDS



: not taught by SoA

ACCT112
Management Accounting

ACCT223
Taxation

ACCT111
Financial Accounting

ACCT221
**Accounting Information
Systems**

**ACCT224 Financial
Reporting and Analysis**

ACCT331
Audit and Assurance

**ACCT332 Accounting
Thought & Governance**

**COR-
STAT1202**
**Introductory
Statistics**

FNCE101
Finance

ACCT334
**Intermediate Financial
Accounting**

ACCT336 Valuation

ACCT337
Statistical Programming

COR3302
**Ethics & Social
Responsibility For
Accounting**

Note: Prerequisites may change from time to time. Refer to Course Catalogue for latest information

PRE- REQUISITES

PREREQUISITES FOR ACCOUNTING ELECTIVES (AY2019 INTAKE ONWARDS)

Accounting Electives	*Prerequisites/ #Corequisites
ACCT401 Strategic Management Accounting	*ACCT112 Management Accounting
ACCT403 Advanced Taxation	*ACCT223 Taxation
ACCT 407 Corporate Financial Management	*ACCT112 Management Accounting *ACCT224 Financial Reporting and Analysis
ACCT409 Auditing for the Public Sector	*ACCT221 Accounting Information Systems
ACCT414 Accounting Analytics Capstone (SMU-X)	*ACCT337 Statistical Programming / ANLY104/IS217 Analytics Foundation
ACCT417 Insolvency and Restructuring	*ACCT111/101 Financial Accounting / ACCT105 Financial Accounting for Law #LGST201 Company Law / LAW205 Corporate Law
ACCT418 Data Modelling and Visualisation	*ACCT111/101 Financial Accounting / ACCT105 Financial Accounting for Law
ACCT420 Forecasting and Forensic Analytics	*ACCT337 Statistics Programming / DSA211 Statistical Learning with R

Note: Prerequisites may change from time to time. Refer to Course Catalogue for latest information

PREREQUISITES FOR ACCOUNTING ELECTIVES (AY2019 INTAKE ONWARDS)

Accounting Electives	*Prerequisites/ #Corequisites
ACCT421 Analytics for Value Investing	*COR-STAT1202 Introductory Statistics / COR-STAT1203 Introduction to Statistical Theory *ACCT224 Financial Reporting and Analysis / ACCT201 Corporate Reporting and Financial Analysis *FNCE101 Finance / FNCE103 Finance for Law
ACCT423 Audit Analytics (SMU-X)	*ACCT331 Audit & Assurance
ACCT424 Auditing Information Systems (SMU-X)	*ACCT331 Audit & Assurance
ACCT424 Auditing Information Systems (SMU-X)	*ACCT221 Accounting Information Systems / IS210 Business Process Analysis & Solutioning
ACCT425 Forensic Accounting and Investigation	*ACCT221 Accounting Information Systems
ACCT431 Sustainability Accounting and Reporting	*ACCT111/101 Financial Accounting / ACCT105 Financial Accounting for Law

Note: Prerequisites may change from time to time. Refer to Course Catalogue for latest information

PREREQUISITES FOR ACCOUNTING ELECTIVES (AY2019 INTAKE ONWARDS)

Accounting Electives	*Prerequisites/ #Corequisites
FNCE234 Real Estate Valuation & Taxation	*FNCE101 Finance / FNCE103 Finance for Law
FNCE315 Analytics in Finance & Real Estate	*FNCE101 Finance / FNCE103 Finance for Law
CS440 Foundations of Cybersecurity	*IS111 Introduction to Programming / IS200 IS Software Foundations / SMT111 Programming for Smart City Solutions / CS101 Programming Fundamentals
IS453 Financial Analytics	*IS111 Introduction to Programming / SMT111 Programming for Smart City Solutions / CS105 Statistical Thinking for Data Science
LAW307 Law of Evidence	*LGST101 Business Law / LGST201 Company Law
LGST236 Financial Crime	*LGST101 Business Law

Note: Prerequisites may change from time to time. Refer to Course Catalogue for latest information

PREREQUISITES FOR 2ND MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING DATA AND ANALYTICS

Refer to [OASIS > Academic > SoA Resources > SoA 2nd Majors](#) for latest information

PREREQUISITES FOR 2ND MAJOR IN FINANCIAL FORENSICS

Refer to [OASIS > Academic > SoA Resources > SoA 2nd Majors](#) for latest information

ACCOUNTING CORE

GENERAL TIPS

- Be sure to pre-read content before each lesson as much as possible.
- Practice consistently. Complete your homework and try out sample papers to gain exposure to the different types of questions, especially for Accounting modules. Redoing the questions can help to refresh your memory on the working steps.
- Seek clarifications with your professors whenever doubts arise instead of allowing them to snowball.
- Time management is vital for tests and examinations. Allocate sufficient time to each section and attempt every question as method marks do have a significant weightage in your exams.

ACCT111 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this course?

There is a steep learning curve if you have no prior accounting knowledge. This module entails heavy pre-readings of chapters before each seminar. There is a lot of content to be covered in a short period of time, together with the need to familiarise yourself with the various accounting terminologies and practices. As such, the pace of teaching is very fast.

It is important to differentiate between International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Additionally, extra emphasis should be placed on challenging topics such as: Debit/Credit concepts, Equity, Bonds and Statement of Cash Flows.

- Final: Mock exam papers only serve as additional practice. They are, by no means, reflective of the standards of the Finals itself.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Ensure that you have truly understood and internalised the accounting concepts before moving to the next chapter. Content builds up quickly, so you must get your basics right from the very first lesson. This module is extremely time-consuming. Prioritise your efforts on practices that are more complex and context-dependent as they usually portray a more accurate picture of the final exams.

Duration of the final exam is only three hours, and it consists of many long questions. Familiarise yourself with the presentation and answering format such that it becomes second nature to you. The workbook itself is insufficient to prepare for Finals.

ACCT111 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking the course?

It provides basic knowledge to new learners and serves as a recap for students who have learned accounting previously. There are also benefits in starting early, and they can take the form of simple reading up of notes even before the semester starts.

The effectiveness of Financial Accounting boot camps organised by Peer Tutors. It provides basic knowledge to new learners and serves as a recap for students who have learned accounting previously.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

You can start by familiarising yourself with the idea of Debit and Credits. Watch educational videos and research a little about each topic before attending the lesson. For the more challenging topics, attend a brief course on them to gain some prior understanding. Ask seniors for their notes to better consolidate your knowledge of each concept.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Attempt the mock papers provided and try to complete them within the allotted time. Once done, study the comprehensive solutions that come along with them. Re-attempt any past questions from class notes and homework as a recap of concepts. Clarify misconceptions or doubts with the professors early so that there is enough time to digest the information.

ACCT112

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this course?

Applying several concepts at once, understanding the requirements of the question, reading into tricky questions and the open-ended nature of the answers. It is heavy in content, with loads of theory to be memorised. The course also entails many formulas and accounting methods to be applied in the various situations.

Questions are generally difficult. The overload of information presented to students may hinder their ability to identify the specific concepts that are tested. That said, they can be rather mechanical and repetitive. Focus on understanding the working process and it will be much simpler over time.

Extra emphasis should be placed on challenging topics such as: Cost-Volume-Profit Analysis, Transfer Pricing, Standard Costing and Variances.

- Project: It is very heavy and time-consuming, as the various components of the Master Budget are being tested. Having a decent proficiency in excel would be helpful.
- Final: It is more manageable than ACCT111 FA. With proper planning, one should be able to complete the paper in time. Difficulty level of the questions tested can differ a lot from those in the homework and practice papers.

ACCT112

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Compile your own set of notes after each lesson and organise them well to facilitate a smoother revision process. Simply memorising is not enough. Instead, have a keen understanding of the concepts to better apply what you have learned and constantly review them.

Formulas used in this course should be at your fingertips by the time you sit for the exam. Take the initiative to request for additional practices from professors whenever necessary, and actively work on them.

While time may not be as pressing as FA, it is still important to set aside ample time for each question. Be strategic in your approach to the different questions.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this course?

It pays to have a basic grasp of excel. Organise your own notes well to gain a better understanding of the more difficult topics like Breakeven (BE) costs and Transfer Pricing (TP) - as these concepts might not be intuitive.

It is rather different from FA. While FA is more externally focused, MA is very much internal. The former focuses more on bookkeeping while the latter deals more with the financial management of a company. The approach and hence presentations of answers vary between these two courses.

ACCT112

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Read up on the module a little and ask around to have a rough sensing of what it is about. While it is rather different from FA, they share some common basic fundamentals (eg. both courses make use of Income Statement and Balance Sheet). As such, recapping on the basics of FA would be useful to kickstart one's MA journey.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Made mini-summaries that were concise and easy to read by extracting only the key information of each chapter. Studied them thoroughly and ensured that there was a clear and strong understanding of concepts before attempting the practice questions. Completed sample papers and quizzes as well as the topical questions given by professors. Marked the work done and zoomed into the mistakes to determine the areas that needed clarification.

ACCT221 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS)

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

It is a content-heavy module that is time-pressing. Remembering the data stores for each process, the various shapes and what they stand for, the system flow and process are just a few of the many elements needed to produce the diagrams and flowcharts. There will be many new terminologies introduced.

In order to score well, students are required to gain a clear understanding of the concepts. You have to visualise the flow and translate each of the processes into flowcharts in a precise and detailed manner - especially when unusual situations evolve from the questions. The last few topics tend to be more difficult as they are less intuitive and entails heavy memory work. More challenging ones are Resources, Events, Agents (REA) models, Internal Control and the written section of the description of the control goals and plans for the Control Matrix.

- Project: It tends to differ every semester - you might be tasked to do up tedious narratives and/or flowchart drawings. A lot of coordination is needed for the project flow. There are a lot of things to remember for the Control Matrix, so prepare early and think of a way to remember which control measures fulfill what kind of accuracy and validity check.
- Final: There is no standard answer for AIS and you will need to know the flow and data stores used during a certain business process such as a Revenue/Expenditure Cycle. Drawing can be time-consuming, especially when one is unfamiliar with the concepts. Be particularly careful of the drawing section of the flowcharts and Data Flow Diagrams (DFDs).

ACCT221 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS)

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

To score well for AIS, students need to truly understand the concepts and how to apply them correctly, instead of memorising wholesale, since there are different ways to derive the same answer.

Review the exercises on eLearn to gain exposure to the plausible scenarios and different narratives. Do constant revision and have a chapter summary after each lesson such that you don't fall behind.

Pay attention to the "special cases" that your professor might talk about as they can be potential questions. Try to score well for Midterms as Finals can get rather challenging.

Organise your Control Matrix notes well and have a list of Control Plans to familiarise yourself with. Gain an understanding on how these Control Plans align with Input Accuracy (IA), Input Validity (IV), and Input Completeness (IC), as well as various other goals.

Practice your flowcharts to prepare for every scenario for each process and possible iteration such as Credit or E-commerce. In particular, revise DFDs thoroughly.

ACCT221 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS)

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this course?

The project can be heavy and time-consuming so it would be useful to learn how to use Visio, a software program, to draw the Securities and Future Commission (SFC), DFD and REA. There will be a lot of drawing involved, which is intensive and time-consuming. An iPad can aid in the drawing process.

Having a good understanding of companies' operations and business processes will be useful. This module is not heavy on mathematics nor Information Systems (except for the Database and Cardinalities topic). Instead, the main bulk of its content lies on the drawings and flowcharts.

Open-ended questions come out rather frequently during exams, it is important to have a strong understanding of the theoretical concepts rather than just forcefully memorising them.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Spend some time exploring the significance of AIS in firms and how Revenue/Expenditure Cycle and Entity Relationship (ER) Diagrams apply to real-world context. That can aid one in understanding the rationale behind such seemingly abstract concepts. The textbook serves as a useful complement to the professor's notes.

ACCT221 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS)

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Reviewed slides and notes made for this course to ensure strong understanding before memorising the key concepts. Focused on drawing practices with the sample papers and topical questions. Sticked strictly to the allotted duration for each question.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semesters(s) would you recommend others to take the module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT223 TAXATION

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The module is rather content heavy and conceptually tricky, with lots of readings entailed. Apart from the various Tax Laws and Tax Statutes, there are a lot of concepts and prerequisites to memorise. Students will also need to refresh their memory on the basic concepts of ACCT111 FA, ACCT112 MA and ACCT224 FRA. It can be difficult to understand the fragmented concepts like the format and derivation of Taxable Income, GST and Income Tax Act at the start. Integrating the various topics to answer the questions also has its challenges. Practices can help one understand the reasoning behind them.

Consistent practices from what you have learned in class is integral in knowing how to apply the tax concepts and laws correctly. There is a need to stay up to date with changes made on the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) website.

- Project: It is rather difficult. Past year projects include changing the Corporate Tax Rate in Singapore and revamping the CPF System, which some found difficult to apply the limited knowledge. It also takes up a lot of time and effort, so it will be advisable for the teams to start early.
- Final: It will be tough and time-pressing. Time management is essential in completing the paper. While an Income Tax Act (ITA) is allowed for Finals, there will not be enough time to constantly refer to it. As such, there is a need to have a sound understanding of the concepts.

ACCT223 TAXATION

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Be consistent with your work. Practice questions can be found from the textbook or from ACCA papers on their websites.

Read the IRAS website to gain a better understanding of the definitions and classifications used in Tax and the system in Singapore, particularly for the Corporate and Individual Tax computations. Bring in statutes to check when unsure.

Do not slack off during the early lessons as it sets the foundation of your tax knowledge and it would then be easier to understand the later topics. Format of the questions do not change drastically. So starting early does help one get accustomed to the questions.

Avoid heavy content modules if you plan to take Tax.

Tax requires a lot of practice and active memorisation. The more you practice, the better you will be. It can be daunting at the start but it gets better as you practice and familiarise yourself with the concept.

ACCT223 TAXATION

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

There is a lot of information on the IRAS website and it is a good source to understand the tax legislations. The examples provided on the website can be understood easily. It would be better if students read up on the ITA before classes.

The ITA and Financial Reporting Standards can be different but you will still need to understand FRS in order to be able to excel in ACCT223 Tax. It is advisable to read up on the textbook in advance since it explains using more layman terms. Most find comprehending the question and managing one's time during the exams challenging.

It is a content-heavy module that focuses a lot on the presentation of answers. Maximise your time by formatting the key workings separately and clearly (eg. not cramming multiple expenses into one line).

There is a need to practice consistently to be able to apply the tax laws easily during Finals. Taxation is about the application of the income tax acts to expenses and income to determine the final tax figures. To do well, it is important to write out computations of intermediate steps.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Revised ACCT111 FA and ACCT112 MA beforehand. Read more on heavier tax topics (eg. Corporate Tax) to gain a better understanding of the module. Familiarise oneself with the basic Tax Rules in Singapore and basic calculations of tax as well as the IRAS website.

ACCT223 TAXATION

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Kept doing practices and sample papers under timed conditions and repeatedly. Looked through previous tests and homework for more technical examples (eg. methods of computing Tax Liabilities for Corporate and Individual Level). Clarified doubts against the IRAS website. Recapping knowledge using the textbook is also a good method.

Which accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded:

- ACCT224 Financial Reporting and Analysis

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT224 FINANCIAL REPORTING ANALYSIS (FRA)

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

This module is content heavy, and the accounting treatments covered are more complex than in ACCT111 FA - there is a steep jump. It requires a substantial level of heavy content readings that is important in understanding the Financial Reporting Standards (FRS).

Comprehending and applying theories often pose a challenge to students. The many Journal Entries that this module entails might give rise to confusions.

Extra emphasis should be placed on challenging topics such as: Deferred Tax, Leases, Construction Contracts, Revenue Recognition and Employee Benefits.

- Project: Project is time consuming and challenging, since it must be constantly updated with new standards.
- Final: Contents must be grasped and understood well as there will not be enough time to think through it during Finals. Questions are long and require tedious workings.

ACCT224 FINANCIAL REPORTING ANALYSIS (FRA)

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Consistency is the key. Do your pre-readings and read the FRS as it will really help with the understanding of the principles. Revise regularly; be diligent in reviewing the topics covered from the previous week to ensure that the knowledge is fresh in your head.

Important to do constant practices and consult your professor early in the semester to clarify any doubts over certain concepts. Do your homework questions (repeatedly if needed) – ensure that you are familiar with how the concepts are being applied for that topic.

The format of the exam: There would always be a construction, leases and deferred tax question, which means that one must put more emphasis on these topics. These questions are often much longer in the Finals than the practice papers.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

This module is mainly computational, and it is important to allocate time for practice so that you can cope with the rigor of the lessons as well as grasping the concepts. Useful to understand the concept behind the methods to reduce the memory work needed.

ACCT224 FINANCIAL REPORTING ANALYSIS (FRA)

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Refresh materials from ACCT111 FA as this module relies heavily on basic accounting fundamentals and financial statements. FA topics like Time Value of Money would be useful for concepts covered in Leases. Other essential concepts include Depreciation methods and Inventory Systems. Having tax knowledge will be helpful for the topic on Deferred Tax.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Compiled a summary note after each lesson to properly consolidate learnings from each lesson. Since Deferred Tax is one of the more difficult topics, it pays to spend a little more time revising it to ensure true understanding of it. Read up on IFRS to recap on key concepts.

Which accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded:

- ACCT223 Taxation

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT331 AUDIT AND ASSURANCE

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

A very tedious and content heavy module. It can be difficult to see the links between all the topics taught between the semester and to understand the entire audit process. It is mainly qualitative, so the challenge lies in applying the concepts to the case studies. The application of theory and Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSA) to practical audit work is the toughest. The slides and textbook are insufficient.

This module is heavily dependent on the context of each individual case. Concepts can thus be hard to grasp. The answers are subjective and are on a case by case basis.

- Final: It will be much more complex as compared to class practices. Therefore, understanding it is definitely more important. Be prepared that Finals will be a lot harder than Midterms and you'll be shocked at the difficulty of it.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Be consistent with your readings and the cases that the professor will provide you with. Know your concepts well, revise case studies gone through in class.

Revise the internal control topic from ACCT221 AIS to gain a better overview of the various controls present during the revenue and expenditure cycle of a company.

Understand the entire audit process clearly and the rationale behind as exams are application-heavy. Familiarise yourself with where each concept falls in the audit process and will be able to apply the concept to the case scenarios.

ACCT331 AUDIT AND ASSURANCE

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

The huge amount of pre-readings required which makes this module a content-heavy one. Being familiar with the FRS and pre-reading the SSAs would aid you in grasping the audit concepts.

Since audit knowledge might not be intuitive to beginners, it is advised for students to be open-minded towards contexts that they might not have experienced.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module?

Do some research beforehand and read up more about audit. Ask seniors for their notes so that one can understand the main gist of the module before taking it. Might have opted to take an audit internship before bidding for this module to better prepare myself for it.

Buying the textbook early. It can be helpful for students to kickstart their learning.

Take this module with those that you have confidence of scoring well in.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Ensured full understanding of the concepts covered and memorised the important theories. Listened attentively in class and noted down important slides marked out by Professors. Re-did homework and case-study questions.

ACCT331 AUDIT AND ASSURANCE

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	YS32	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT332 ACCOUNTING THOUGHT AND GOVERNANCE

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

A content-heavy module that relates more on how accounting theory is formed and the rationale behind it. Abstract with certain terminologies that require getting used. It can be difficult to understand the relevance of the topics covered in class. As much as possible, do not take this with a heavy module.

Though only minimal calculations are involved, huge amounts of research papers are required readings. They are usually lengthy and tough to understand, adding on to the difficulty of grasping theories and underlying concepts for this module.

- Project: Students should start early with research papers being hard to understand. It is a highly research based mini-thesis paper using H0 and H1 Testing which is unfamiliar to most accounting students.
- Final: Will usually test students on their opinions on certain research topic on accounting policies that have been implemented. It involves a lot of memory work and to be analytical about accounting.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Be consistent with your required pre-readings (e.g. research papers, textbook, articles) along with the notes provided by the professor. For research papers, understand the main research questions and certain key results to save time.

Go in with the right mindset that you are trying to appreciate why accounting policies and practices are established, in order to fully appreciate what is being taught in class. Be attentive in class and take notes diligently.

ACCT332 ACCOUNTING THOUGHT AND GOVERNANCE

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

The content is very heavy and will involve a lot of memory work so be mentally prepared to allocate more time to it.

Finance and Economics knowledge will be helpful here so do familiarise yourselves with them before the school term starts. Taking modules that lean towards Corporate Governance and Agency problems may also be useful.

This module entails rather extensive calculations that are highly relevant to ACCT221 AIS. Sufficient practice will help one secure some points at the calculation segments. Be extra careful in the intermediate computations to obtain as many marks as possible at the calculations segments.

Certain concepts require more detailed explanation and elaboration, in which the slides might not be enough to provide at times. Hence, it is important to pay close attention in class and regularly review the recordings to note down pointers and items that might have been missed.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Revised knowledge on ACCT221 AIS and research more about the module to gain a better understanding of the various concepts that will be covered in class.

Find out about the exam format from seniors who have taken the same Professor. Questions from the papers can be much harder and lengthy as compared to those found in sample papers.

ACCT332 ACCOUNTING THOUGHT AND GOVERNANCE

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Read through lesson slides and looked at past case studies to recap the concepts that have been gone through. While it pays to memorise key content, understanding them is more important than blindly taking in knowledge on a surface level.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT334 INTERMEDIATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

This module requires a good pre-understanding of the mechanism taught in FNCE102 FMI. Good to familiarise oneself with basic Finance concepts (eg. Discounting).

Calculations for Journal Entries are very challenging and tedious, especially with the many details to each sub-question. Application of concepts to various scenarios can be confusing, with the different accounting treatments.

Understanding how answers are being derived and mastering the specific presentation formats.

Extra emphasis that needs to be on challenging topics (eg. Hedging and Foreign exchange).

- Final: Much harder as compared to the practice papers, Midterms and quizzes. Important to have a good understanding of the concepts and journal entries.

ACCT334 INTERMEDIATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Take FMI first and revise the topics learnt so as to ensure better understanding of the concepts behind accounting for Financial Instruments.

Time yourself and practice all homework and quizzes. Keep redoing until you fully understand the entries. It is important to do beyond the homework because Finals cover way more content than that.

Do your readings consistently and start on your cheat sheet early. It might be helpful to create a mindmap that consolidates all the different accounting treatments.

Start practicing earlier.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

It requires a good accounting background. To take FNCE102 FMI before this module or to at least take these two modules concurrently. Knowledge from that module and ACCT224 FRA will help one have a better understanding of the concepts covered here.

There is a heavy commitment to the module, with two tests that cover almost all the content from the module. Good time management is required as a huge amount of time is required to complete the tutorials. The technique learned in class can vary a lot from those tested in the exam.

ACCT334 INTERMEDIATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

How would you have prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Revise content gone through in ACCT111 FA thoroughly as the knowledge builds up rather extensively from there on. Read up slides from seniors before starting the semester and build up good fundamentals for finance.

Do not bid for this module with other intensive ones. Mentally prepare oneself that this is an intellectually-stimulating course.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Did extensive practices on Journal Entries. Reviewed past questions and redid them. Complete sample papers provided by the Professors as they are an accurate representation of the actual exams.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded:

- ACCT336 Valuation

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT335 ADVANCED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

There is a steep learning curve at the start and the concepts can be difficult to understand. Making sure that you are clear about the relationship between each entity and how to account for them correctly. Understanding the interaction between complex accounting entries and accounting standards can be rather tedious.

A quantitative module that is time-consuming as students will spend a lot of time and effort to practice the questions. The more challenging topics would be multilevel consolidation and the change of ownership. The many different scenarios with slight tweaks can be confusing.

Difficult topics include Closing Journal Entries (CJEs), Consolidation and the Cash Flow statement.

- Final: It will be more challenging than any accounting core finals you have ever taken and tougher than the practices done in class. Time management is the key to score too.

ACCT335 ADVANCED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Revise the topics for ACCT224 FRA and ACCT334 IFA, as well as concepts covering leases and construction contracts.

It is important to do readings and practices every week to be able to follow during lessons. The textbook is very helpful. Clarify any content immediately to prevent an accumulation of doubts.

Consistent practice is important as the content will be built up on the previous week's topic. Set aside time each week for recap as there will not be enough time to do so during study breaks. Be prepared to spend a lot of time on this module at the start to firm up your accounting foundation. Plan your modules such that you will have time to spend most of your time studying for it. Do not bid this module together with other high-commitment modules.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

The workload and the level of difficulty for this module is not like what you have experienced in SMU before. There is a huge amount of practices and revision required for this module. Brace yourselves, because it is really that challenging.

Reading the textbook can help a lot for your Finals prep. It also pays to revise and practice consistently for each and every topic, even if they are not covered extensively in homework or practice questions.

ACCT335 ADVANCED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Revise thoroughly on basic concepts using materials from past modules (like ACCT111 FA, ACCT224 FRA, ACCT334 IFA etc) to ensure a strong accounting foundation.

Reading up on topics covered in this course beforehand. Manage one's time well and wisely.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Practice, practice and practice. Went through all the illustrations, redid all the workbooks provided. Familiarised oneself a lot with the phrasing of the sample questions and the style of testing. Completed the papers under timed conditions.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded:

- ACCT403 Advanced Taxation

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT336 VALUATION

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

It relies heavily on the application finance concepts. Requires a good foundation in finance if you want to score in this module. Heavy in content with a very intensive project that requires you to do a valuation model on a real-life company.

Understanding the rationale behind various valuation models, while paying attention to the minute differences, is challenging. Extra emphasis should also be placed on challenging topics such as Accounting adjustments and the Valuation of Intangible Assets.

Navigating through excel functions for the different valuation models is also rather difficult. The huge amount of Present Value (PV) calculations calls for the need to truly understand the different models.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Practice makes perfect. Start on the project early so that you have more time to make adjustments.

Start on your cheatsheet early and be strategic about the information that should be included in it. Pay attention to the way you're structuring it so that you can refer to it efficiently during the exam.

Professor's Comment: Valuation requires lots of practice in calculations. Determination and commitment are critical. Students should know Modigliani and Miller (M&M) Proposition I & II from Finance and be fast and good in doing discounting without financial calculators as discounting in most cases is not based on year end cash flows. Good background in financial ratio analysis as well as basic group accounts is desirable.

ACCT336 VALUATION

What is one thing you wish you knew before taking this module?

Its high dependence on finance concepts. It would be good to read up on finance again before taking this module. The phrasings can get rather confusing at times. Strong knowledge of how to apply the different formulae is required to understand the workings in practice papers.

It is advised to take this module with FNCE201 Corporate Finance. Having some form of internship experience in valuing might be useful in getting started for this course.

How would you have better prepared for this module before taking it?

Revised content from both Accounting and Finance modules, some of which include: ACCT224 FRA, FNCE101 Fin, and ACCT334 IFA beforehand. Focused on recapping the fundamentals of concepts like Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC), Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and the M&M Propositions.

Bided this module right after taking FNCE102 FMI. Honing one's excel and computer proficiency. Having a list of excel shortcuts that one is familiar with also helps.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Added in key workings from practices into the cheatsheet to make it comprehensive enough but also structuring the information in a way that is easy to refer to during the exams. Went through in-class illustrations and redid practice questions. Completed the exercises on excel to stimulate the examination format.

ACCT336 VALUATION

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT337 STATISTICAL PROGRAMMING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

Learning and understanding the syntax codes in the programming language, R, can be difficult, especially for students without any prior programming background. Statistical concepts and interpreting the results of more advanced codes can be challenging as well.

As a very technical module, it might be hard to understand the theory behind the codes. There are many different formulas to remember and apply. Figuring what the Professor is looking out for has its fair share of difficulties.

- Project: Very heavy and time-consuming, requires you to handle a very large dataset and codes. You will be working alongside real-world clients. It is easy to get lost in the multitude of concepts entailed in this course. Be clear about the areas of research to focus on.

Professor's Comments: While there is an expected output in terms of the project, there are no set guidelines on how it should be done because the project is built upon a real-world data analysis project. Students need to challenge themselves to avoid relying on checklists and boxes to fulfill an assessment but look towards how their analysis can add value to the company they are analysing for.

- Final: The paper requires students to develop a step-by-step process to tackle a mini-case, so understanding the full term's worth of concepts is necessary. Details are tested, and some specific codes are needed as well.

ACCT337 STATISTICAL PROGRAMMING

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Reading up on R programming will be beneficial before taking this module. Before classes, pre-reading will allow you to get an idea of the class' scope and follow the lesson better. Practising coding on DataCamp, while revising labs and coding aspects of the course, are critical. The weekly journals are useful for revision and recap of the content.

Ensure strong understanding of the concepts and practice as much as possible as the exams are application-heavy. Have a good cheatsheet that compiles all the key concepts in a concise manner for easy reference during the exam.

Students typically score well for Midterms and Finals. Therefore, aim to do well in the project as it can be the determining factor to your grade.

Professor's Comment: Avoid bringing baggage of past programming experience into this course so that they can make a fresh start in programming. While prior knowledge of other programming languages may be helpful, they can sometimes lead to confusion because R is different from other languages.

ACCT337 STATISTICAL PROGRAMMING

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

Statistical concepts, such as linear regression from COR-STAT1202 Intro Stats, and Internal Control concepts from ACCT221 AIS are important for the course.

The class content on analytics and machine learning and programming sessions using R make lessons draining and the learning curve steep for many. The course is not only about coding but being able to know how to contextualise the situation and knowing how to interpret the results from the code well.

Students typically score well for Midterms and Finals. Therefore, aim to do well in the project as it can be the determining factor to your grade.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Take up IS111 Intro to Programming or ACCT418 DMV to have a rough idea of how coding is like before diving into this module. Learned basic R programming language so the course doesn't appear too daunting.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Revised contents using the slides and lesson materials, then consolidated the theories through the cheatsheet. Since it is an open-book examination, I focused more on understanding and applying the concepts learned.

ACCT337 STATISTICAL PROGRAMMING

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Professor's Comment: Intro to Programming (Python) to avoid confusion of syntax as much as possible.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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COR-STAT1202 INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

It is not an extremely heavy module in terms of content. There is a fair share of theories to internalise, some definitions to memorise but not super difficult. As such, classes are typically rather fast-paced. That said, students with prior knowledge in statistics should find this module manageable.

What is more challenging is deriving the question requirements from the tricky phrasings. Time is also rather pressing in tests and exams.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

If you had studied statistics in Junior College/Polytechnic/High School, it pays to refresh your memory on certain concepts like Hypothesis Testing, Probability, and the various Distribution Models. Otherwise, one can easily search the web to gain some understanding on these concepts beforehand.

Some useful YouTube channels for Statistics include but are not limited to CrashCourse, Khan Academy and Dr Nic's Math and Stats. However, do note that ASoc cannot guarantee their accuracy of their content with regards to the SMU syllabus.

Apportion your time wisely, as some assignments are graded.

COR-STAT1202 INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

It is rather different from that taught in Polytechnic, though some of the topics like Estimation & Confidence Interval, Central Tendency and Linear Regression & Correlation are covered. The contents of this module is typically more similar to that taught at the Junior College (JC) level. Bid for the Professor based on your background knowledge.

How would you have better prepared for this module before taking it?

Gone through previous notes and/or attended a course to refresh my memory on the various concepts covered. Honed my excel skills as they can be useful in deriving key values for Projects.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Attempt as many practices as possible and revisit the in-class exercises. Familiarise yourself with the definitions used by Professors because they are typically incorporated in questions to test your understanding.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S1	Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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FNCE101 FINANCE

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

There is a steep learning curve for those with no prior background in this field. It can be challenging to understand the reasonings behind the financial terms and how these concepts apply in the real world. Applying the concepts formulas to the different contexts of the questions can also get very confusing at times.

Topics that students found challenging include Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC), Rates of Return, Present Value (PV), and Bonds.

- Project: Rather heavy and time-consuming, with tricky questions. A good foundation in finance is required to score well. Start working on it early and choose your target company wisely.
- Exam: Practice more for the calculation-heavy modules. Since you will likely be taking this module with students majoring in Finance, the learning curve would naturally be steep especially if you're a beginner. Be extra careful in your calculations to secure as many marks as possible.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Read the textbook and cover all concepts thoroughly. It is a useful guide for you to anticipate what might be tested during the exams. Be consistent in your revision as the workload piles up quickly throughout the sem.

FNCE101 FINANCE

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

As much as this module is more business-focused, it still has some aspects of accounting involved. Hence, it is certainly useful to have a good foundation in accounting concepts. The rationale behind some computations are not intuitive. Ensure that you understand every concept and study the Professor's slides diligently. Having some prior finance knowledge is certainly useful.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Researched about finance a little to get a rough sense of what it is about, instead of going in with zero knowledge. Revised key concepts from ACCT111 FA, like Bonds and PV Table to familiarise myself with the calculations that this module entails. Learned how to operate a Financial Calculator.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Revised key theories to ensure strong understanding and internalisation of concepts. Practiced diligently, making ample use of the questions and in-class exercises provided by the Professor. Completed the sample papers within the allotted time to stimulate examination settings.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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FNCE102 FINANCIAL MARKETS AND INVESTMENTS

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

A steep learning curve from FNCE101 Fin, with a heavy focus on the theoretical side of things. Content covered can get too technical at times, making it difficult for students to appreciate and internalise the concepts. The common struggle lies at understanding the more complex equations and calculations, especially at the first part of this module.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this course?

Ensure that you fully internalise the concepts covered in this module. Attempt as many questions as possible. The textbook is a very good source for you to recap your knowledge, clarify your doubts and practice more. It is advised to pick a few questions from the relevant topic to try after each lesson.

Start on the project early. Learn the Financial Calculator well, be familiar with how to key in the equations and its modifications. Choose the Professors based on your Finance background. If Finance is not your forte, try not to take this module with other Accounting intensive modules like ACCT334 IFA, ACCT335 AFA and more. In fact, it is advised to take this module before IFA.

FNCE102 FINANCIAL MARKETS AND INVESTMENTS

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

It is much easier to fall below average than the others because there will be many entering this module with sound Finance knowledge. Hence, consistent effort is required to ensure that one does not fall behind their peers.

Midterms is where you really have to score because the Finals will be much tougher. This module is also super project-heavy. Hence, it will be good to bid for it with other modules that you are confident of scoring well in.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Brushed up my understanding on FNCE101 Fin. Recapped on the keystrokes of the Financial Calculator to ensure my familiarity with it.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Spend some time revising all of the concepts covered in the content. Practice, practice and practice. Ensure clear understanding of the rationale behind the intermediate steps so that you can actually apply them to the different contexts.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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OBHR101 MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE AT WORK

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

A content-heavy module consisting of many theories to be memorised. It is a rather subjective module, in which there is no absolute right or wrong. Students are to tap on the theories used to argue their point.

There is a huge emphasis on class participation that focuses on the quality of responses. Here, it may be difficult to come up with insightful questions that can spur a conversation.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this course?

Curate a mind map for each topic to consolidate your learnings after each lesson. Make use of keywords to aid in your internalisation and memorisation process - it is important to understand the theories behind each concept.

Enter this module with an open mind. While the theories entailed may appear fluff initially, students will appreciate its practical uses that can be applied directly in the workforce.

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this course?

The format of the exams might not be explicitly disclosed to you. Since each Professor has a different style of teaching and testing, it is helpful to find out more about it with seniors who have taken this module under the same Professor. Attempting class practices and sample papers provided by the Professors and getting them to look through your answers can also aid one in gauging their marking style.

Active participation in this class will be beneficial.

OBHR101 MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE AT WORK

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Keep abreast with current affairs. Browse through the prescribed textbook in advance to get a rough idea of what theories this module focuses on. Might have researched on basic psychology knowledge pertaining to that field to get some foundational knowledge on this field.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Practiced concepts using the testbanks and mini-quizzes given by Professors. Revising not just the lesson slides but also the group presentation slides as the content covered in that are usually tested in the MCQ section of the final exam.

MGMT102 STRATEGY

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

It is heavy in content, requiring a substantial amount of memory work for Finals. It requires good understanding of the concepts that can get confusing at times.

This module is one that places significant emphasis on Class Participation, which might pose difficulty to students who are not used to speaking in class.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this course?

It is not a time-intensive module. As such, divert your energy more towards truly understanding the content rather than just taking them in at surface level. Do research a little before every class for relevant examples pertaining to the topic.

Study the test banks to ensure you remember the strategy concepts as you need to use it to explain essay answers. Focus more about recent case studies to identify the workable strategies adopted by other companies.

Since the mode of testing varies across Professors, do refer to your individual course outlines and pay extra attention on the first lesson as they would usually share more about this there. Choose a Professor whom you are comfortable with their testing style - especially with regards to Class Participation.

MGMT102 STRATEGY

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

This module can be rather subjective. Have a good grasp of the concepts because you will require them to substantiate your points.

Depending on your Professor's method of delivery, the content and workload can get a little overwhelming at times so manage your time well.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Do some pre-readings and attempt to understand how things play out in actuality. Familiarise oneself with the case studies and the more basic Strategy concepts.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Refreshed knowledge by revising the lesson notes and consolidated them using a mindmap that links the different concepts together. That way, it is easier to find key information and ensures clarity. Re-read the case studies to understand how the various matrix and graphs applied in that particular context.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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LGST101 BUSINESS LAW

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

It entails a lot of content and past-cases. Huge amount of pre-readings to be done before every lesson, consisting of rather complex concepts that requires time to internalise. Pace of the lessons can be quite fast, making it difficult to clarify on the spot at times.

Class Participation takes up quite a large component for this module.

- Exams: Extremely pressed for time. Students have to understand and know the case laws at their fingertips to apply them to the different context set. Students often struggle with identifying the issue tested, which may lead them to structure their answers on the wrong path.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Start on your pre-readings early and pay close attention to your Professor's teachings. Be consistent in your pre-readings and practice as much as you can.

Take reference from the resources that have already been compiled but make your own set of notes to familiarise yourself with the content and your placement of it in your notes / cheatsheet. Do up a mindmap that compiles the key concepts of each chapter, such that it is easy to identify them during exams.

LGST101 BUSINESS LAW

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this course?

Compile a cheatsheet consolidating past cases from each topic for easy reference during exams. There is no memorisation required, since tests and exams are held in an open-book format. That said, a good understanding of the many underlying theories is required to cite the correct case laws and obtain a good score.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Asked for notes from seniors to do some pre-reading in advance - "Godlike Notes" was amongst the most recommended ones. Asked seniors who took the same Professor about their typical testing format so as to better plan out one's time for the examinations.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Revised through the case laws and ensured good understanding of them. Marked out the keystone cases (like Gay Choon Ing for Offer and Acceptance, Pau On Exception for Past Consideration etc) using different coloured ink to facilitate easy the locating of information during examination.

Did practice sets and sample papers provided by the Professors, and tried completing them within the allotted time to get stimulate the exam context.

LGST201 COMPANY LAW

What is the most difficult thing about this course?

A content-heavy module with many complex case laws, it is highly technical. The many foreign concepts and principles that can be confusing to students. There are huge amounts of pre-readings to be done weekly, and the need to compile good notes for easy consolidation of knowledge and reference. - making it a rather time-consuming module.

- Exams: Professors have the tendency of setting long questions with tricky context, making it difficult for students to apply the concepts to the different scenarios. It will be time-pressing as well, hence it is important to have good time management.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this course?

Ensure that you truly understand the various concepts and case laws gone through in class. It will make the application process easier. Be consistent in your practices and revision of concepts from past lessons. Practice writing the answers thoroughly, with the proper use of cases, concepts, and laws - just as how you would do during the exam. The knowledge and familiarity will build up steadily from there.

It is helpful to draw mindmaps linking the various concepts together - instead of studying them individually. Format your notes in a structured manner, including only the relevant information like the case laws and the relevant Rules and Analysis.

LGST201 COMPANY LAW

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this module?

Lawnnet is a useful resource platform for this module. In fact, its significance is higher than that of LGST101 BLAW. The format is similar to BLAW, hence it is important for you to get notes and prewrites from seniors and peers as early as possible.

The importance of making your own set of notes even if you have many good notes or resources. It helps in the internalisation of concepts.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Though the exam is conducted in an open-book format, avoid bidding it with content-heavy modules. Researched a little on Singapore's constitution and laws practiced in the Business world. Revised BLAW notes beforehand as this module is trickier than it seems.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Prewrote comprehensive study notes and answer templates. Practiced consistently by redoing project questions and hypotheticals gone through in class under timed condition to hone issue-identification skills.

Ensured that answers follow the closely with the Professor's given format. Since most practice questions did not come with solutions, actively discussed answers with friends to hear from the possible different ways of interpreting the questions.

LGST201 COMPANY LAW

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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COR3302 ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this course?

Understanding what the Professor is looking for in examinations. The theoretical concepts themselves are rather straightforward. However, it can be difficult applying them into real-world context because that entails formulating and organising a persuasive argument from frameworks and terminology covered in class.

Students are required to see things from an ethical perspective and be familiar with how they apply to the different case studies. As such, they need to be constantly updated with the pre-readings, relevant news and current affairs as it may be discussed in class about the ethical issues that surfaced. It is often difficult to identify the ethical dilemma of the situation clearly and how it arose from.

- Projects: Breadth of project can be very wide, but boils down to the ability to create an argumentative and persuasive standpoint. Extra emphasis should be placed on preparing for the Q&A of the project.
- Finals: Difficult to space structure commonsensical thoughts on ethics into procedural framework-based answers. Important to have a good understanding of ethical framework. The learning curve is rather steep so do ensure sound understanding of the four main ethical theories.

COR3302 ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOUNTING

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Prepare for lessons by doing pre-readings consistently and try to apply them in different situations. Highlight and label important parts of the chapter. Good to read textbook, prepare a good cheat sheet and sample essay answers in advance. Participate actively in discussions during class to gain better understanding and consult your professors to ensure that your arguments are on the right track.

Important to take this module with an open mind as the module and discussion topics do not have a model answer but rather, entails a variety of thinking. Be certain of your answers and plan arguments using frameworks before diving into the essay, no right or wrong answers. Marking is based on the argument that you provide, but do remember to present your answers in the format that is preferred by your Professors.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

It is one that could be paired with tougher mods as the module is relatively easy if you pay attention in class. The key to scoring is being consistent with your pre-readings and practices. Structure your thought process in a way such that you always consider the ethical side of things. That will train your ability to better apply the learned knowledge into different contexts.

COR3302 ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOUNTING

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Read up more on current affairs - especially those concerning ethical issues. As EP100 is one of the more challenging topics in this module, asking for notes from seniors and peers and doing readings prior to the course would be helpful.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Went through the theories covered in class to recap on the knowledge tested. Compiled them in notes and memorised the key concepts. Practiced integrating them into frameworks by doing up the case studies and reading the model answers to understand the logic behind them.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCOUNTING ELECTIVES

ACCT401 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The concepts are difficult to grasp and may seem disjoint due to the lack of a textbook for this course. It can be rather abstract for the first half of the semester, with academic papers and concepts from economics. Understanding the strategies and applying them to real life businesses using calculations can be challenging.

Professor's Comment: The module is roughly half qualitative and half quantitative. The first part involves consolidating concepts and knowledge from areas such as strategy, operations and culture for application. The second half is to provide more advanced accounting techniques to support and control the learned implementation.

Professor's Comment: The group project helps to train students' soft skills in reading reports and differentiating sincere and lip service reporting. The module focuses on how to create value for different stakeholders of a company through strategies and correct implementation (including control, tools and reports).

- Finals: Application based papers. Needs to manage your time well as case studies can be really complicated and time consuming. The focus should be on writing your answers instead of spending the bulk of the time reading on the cast information.

ACCT401 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Take MGMT102 Strategy before attempting this module. It will help build a firmer foundation and help in better understanding the concepts. Familiarise yourself with basic statistics and be prepared to read up more on finance and economics knowledge. Recapping knowledge from COR-STAT1202 Intro Stats, FNCE101 Fin and COR2100 E&S might be useful.

Focus on understanding the concepts rather than memorising them as it is application-based. Listen in class as the professor will provide useful insights that will be helpful for exams and clarify whenever in doubt. Plan your time well for the project and find people that you are able to work with, as it can be heavy.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

Start on your project early as it is the most time-consuming part of the course. It is a valuable module for students who are interested in investing.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Revised fundamentals concepts of FNCE102 FMI. Reading and researching up on investing to have a better idea of how it works in real-world context. That will aid in the grasping of content. Recapping on key concepts for ACCT112 MA might be useful as well.

ACCT401 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Consolidated learnings by making comprehensive notes. While it is not a quantitative module, there is still a need for consistent practice through problem-solving and discussion of cases with peers. That will aid in honing your critical-thinking in analysing the different situations presented during the exams.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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Professor's Comment: Students in the first and second years are NOT advised to take this module because of their limited exposure to the other modules and work practices. Majority of students who took this module were final year students.

ACCT403 ADVANCED TAXATION

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The application of tax concepts to real-world situations is not just confined to tax computations. It includes tax advisory situations as well. Tough topics include Double Tax Agreement, GST, Tax Incentives and Overseas Income. There is a slight overlap with ACCT223 Tax, but the concepts in this course are more in-depth.

Professor's Comment: The weekly case studies done in class are probably most difficult, but as the case study discussion is done in groups, this also provides a lot of hands-on learning from actual real-life cases.

- Project: Research intensive due to it being rather open ended.
- Final: Time management is extremely important.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Do pre-readings to minimise confusion. Read up on tax guides on websites such as IRAS.

Ensure that you have a solid grasp of your tax concepts from ACCT223 Tax before attempting this module, even though a quick revision on concepts will be done at the beginning.

Start on the project early.

ACCT403 ADVANCED TAXATION

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

There is a need to revise on basic tax concepts before attempting this module. It will also be better if you take this module right after your Taxation module.

The textbook will not suffice. Read up from various websites such as IRAS and ITA.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Revised ACCT223 Tax knowledge as it builds the foundation of this module. Recapped on knowledge from ACCT111 FA, ACCT112 MA, FNCE101 Fin, COR2100 E&S and LGST101 BLAW. Might have been useful to have an internship before taking it to aid in the application of theories.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Practiced consistently to efficiently analyse, synthesise and evaluate financial information given in the questions. That way, students can better ensure proficiency in identifying the tax issues entailed and effectively apply the learned business concepts and principles.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded:

- ACCT335 Advanced Financial Accounting

Professor's Comment: Best not to take it with heavy courses such as ACCT335 Advanced Financial Accounting.

ACCT403 ADVANCED TAXATION

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT407 CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

This module allows students to understand the perspective of a CFO. The concepts are difficult to grasp and require deep understanding. It heavily involves memory work too.

The workload is rather heavy as the project involves a video, report, presentation, peer and class evaluation. It requires a lot of research and it is necessary for the content to be supported by strong evidence as your research will be challenged.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Study consistently for the quizzes and participate in classes regularly. Since a lot of memory work is involved, it will be good to start early when preparing for Midterms or Finals. Students have to be attentive in class, take down the elaborations to each point that he says in class. The additional things said in class will be tested in exams.

Refresh your FNCE101 Fin concepts before taking this module. Read the finance section of the newspaper to be able to understand better.

The project will be very heavy and starting early can help a lot. They are straightforward and large emphasis placed on creative methods in delivering the final presentation.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

The groupings for the project might be pre-assigned. Knowing the basic operations of a company will be helpful.

ACCT407 CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module?

Revised notes from ACCT112 MA and ACCT224 FRA as knowledge from these builds the foundation for this module.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Practiced consistently to acquire the well as the tools and analytical technique needed for the answering of questions. Revised and memorised concepts using the textbook.

Professor's recommendation: The New CFO Financial Leadership Manual (By: Steven M Bragg – 3rd Ed).

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT409 AUDITING FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

This module requires a substantial level of judgement as there are no hard rules. Precision of language is the key to scoring.

- Projects: Workload for the project is very heavy, with application of concepts being the most difficult component to score.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Read all the required articles before class as it will help you to participate in class better and learn more effectively. Precision of language is required. Internalise the content to apply the concepts effectively.

This module would only be suitable for those who wish to enter the public sector.

Go into the course with an open mind. Do the questions in each case study given by the professor.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

The scope covered here is more on operational audit, whereas in Audit and Assurance module, the scope covered is on financial audit.

A high level of writing standard and precision of language is required.

ACCT409 AUDITING FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Recapped on knowledge from ACCT331 Audit and Assurance. Taken an audit internship prior to bidding for it to have a better understanding of how the theories apply in real-world context.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Practiced case studies to ensure a good understanding of the nature of public sector auditing. Familiarise oneself with the components that constitute an audit report.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT410 INTERNAL AUDIT

Experience from the module.

Nice, insightful experience that prepared us for the workforce, while opening various opportunities to network with professors and secure internships. Interesting experience to learn from industry experts and how Internal Auditing is applied in different settings. The projects and assignments are challenging.

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

Requires creativity and a deep understanding of readings to apply the correct concepts to the case. There are many readings in the first half of the semester.

The ability to apply what we have learnt to a real-life case study for the project. Topic of the project focuses on cutting edge concepts, which poses a certain level of difficulty as there is not a lot of research and insights that can be searched on the internet.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Start early on the project as there is a lot of work to be done. Revise topics from Governance, Risk & Management as it will help in the understanding of the IA concepts. Read the news constantly to see how it ties in with internal auditing as the module is very proactive.

ACCT410 INTERNAL AUDIT

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

Enter the course with an open mind and do not expect to be spoon fed in class. This course is not the usual seminar style where the professor will teach you about the content to be learnt but rather, professionals in various industries will be in the class to share their experience and to educate us with the content. There is no final paper which is quite good and hence there is less less workload toward the end of the semester.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Did an audit internship prior to bidding for it to better understand its applications as well as the stakeholders' expectations. Recapped on knowledge from ACCT331 Audit and Assurance to have a sound foundation in auditing and its various practices.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Internalised the theories and focused on understanding its applications. Reviewed in-class practices to familiarise oneself with the various components to look out for.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT414 ACCOUNTING ANALYTICS (SMU-X)

Experience from the module.

Very different from a normal accounting course. There are no lectures and seminars, but a semester-long project starting from the beginning. Expect to meet clients often and have group meetings multiple times each week - maybe even more frequently during "hell week", as everything will be dependent on the project work. Many of the materials have to be self-taught.

Interaction with industry professionals during the module.

Most industry professionals / clients are friendly and welcoming of questions and clarifications. Use the opportunity to learn more about the inner works of the client and broaden your understanding of the working world. Often, enlightening outcomes ensue from the interactions.

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The sheer amount of hours committed, and the learning of new content, tools and programmes to tailor solutions to client problems. Data might not be presented in the most ideal or complete form, and hence the need for data scraping, cleaning and transformation.

Due to possible clashes in schedules, responses from clients may take a few days. Besides, the group project topics assigned are rather tricky, which were difficult to curate a solution for.

ACCT414 ACCOUNTING ANALYTICS (SMU-X)

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Only take this course and at most ONE other accounting core module. This capstone module is really project-heavy and will restrict your time to be able to revise for your other accounting core module. Manage your capstone timeline well and be consistent with your work. If there is an issue, do not wait on it to resolve itself. Book a consult and make sure the problem does not backlog the progress of your capstone group's project timeline.

Plan in advance and always try to meet the company's representative or client at a specific weekly routine.

Work with a group of friends whom you can work with.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

The heavy use of analytical skills and the amount of time necessary for this module. Recommended to take ACCT337 Stats Prog and ACCT418 DMV before taking this module.

The data analytics progression might not always correspond with your insights. Often, the root problem lies in your primary findings. Constantly check back and clarify issues with clients in time.

ACCT414 ACCOUNTING ANALYTICS (SMU-X)

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Brushed up on one's data and analytical skills which is heavily dependent upon. Since students got to pick their group mates, chose those whom one can work well with so as to ensure better group dynamics.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded:

- ACCT335 Advanced Financial Accounting

Which year would you recommend others to take the module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT417 INSOLVENCY AND RESTRUCTURING

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would love to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course provides knowledge on the full spectrum of the restructuring and insolvency regimes available in Singapore and the application of these regimes in situations of various degrees of distress. Insolvency practice includes practicing as a “company doctor” overseeing formal and informal workouts for financially distressed business or practicing as a company receiver, administrator and liquidator with the objective of maximising recovery to creditors.

Students will learn the different types of restructuring and insolvency procedures most suited to each situation, the legal implications and effects on the business entities and various stakeholders, the roles, responsibilities and powers of insolvency practitioners under each procedure, and the practical/commercial issues to consider when business entities enter into the restructuring or insolvency mode.

This course aims to equip students with the basic knowledge in detecting the early warning signs, understanding financial issues faced by business entities and financial impact of key decisions in addressing the situation. It also emphasises the practical application of theories and concepts learnt in class to the real world.

ACCT417 INSOLVENCY AND RESTRUCTURING

Course Description (cont)

The course is not only designed to be relevant for students who are specifically seeking a career in insolvency practice but also for those who are interested in business rescue and business failure generally.

ACCT418 DATA MODELLING AND VISUALISATION (DMV)

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The Data Modelling Segment of the module is the most challenging part. Learning how to use Tableau from scratch, understanding various analytics techniques, then applying them in excel to solve accounting problems can be challenging especially since the software is not intuitive.

The projects and assignments can be tedious and time consuming as well.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

For those who require a longer time to understand concepts, it would be good to try out the prof's examples before class. It is important to catch up with the class contents as they are usually conducted at a very fast pace.

- Excel: Follow the step-by-step guide provided by Professors to familiarise yourself with the application.
- Project: Consult the professor earlier to clarify their expectations pertaining to the submissions so as to not go off track. They take up a substantial amount of time.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

The course has a strong practice focus, involving the application of DMV techniques in various accounting settings, and students should be prepared for hands-on application of these techniques.

ACCT418 DATA MODELLING AND VISUALISATION (DMV)

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Develop a basic understanding of how Tableau is used for data construction. Gain competency with Excel and its basic codes. Revised COR-STAT1202 Intro Stats and took COR1305 Spreadsheet Modeling before this module.

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Went through the slides to understand and internalise the formulas covered. Clarified any confusion with the concepts and memorised the key ones. Revised past exercises to get a sensing of the professor's testing style.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT420 FORECASTING AND FORENSIC ANALYTICS

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

Content is more advanced than its prerequisite - ACCT337 Stats Prog. Thus, it requires one's command of R Programming to be of a decent level. More difficult topics include Textual Analysis and understanding the different Forensics Model.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Do Datacamp diligently - especially when confused or unsure. Take time to explore the codes and make sure you truly understand the output of the codes and how to derive them. Practice consistently to ensure efficiency and effectiveness when answering the questions.

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this course?

Course mixes theory and code together, which can be very confusing. Understanding a broad overview of the course helps to keep track of progress. It has an extreme reliance on R programming knowledge.

Project is coding-intensive, and Professors typically encourage creativity and innovation. As such self-learning of outside-class content is important.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Revised materials from ACCT337 Stats Prog and brushed up on R programming skills. Started on Datacamp earlier to get a rough sensing of how the concepts can be tested, various phrasings of the questions etc.

ACCT420 FORECASTING AND FORENSIC ANALYTICS

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Read the notes to have a better understanding of the codes and the rationale behind them. Practiced the sample papers, to identify the aims of the many algorithms that this module entails. Memorised key concepts.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT421 ANALYTICS FOR VALUE INVESTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The most challenging aspect of this course is the multi-disciplinary focus, where students must be able to cross-apply the disciplines of financial accounting, financial markets, statistics and computer programming. It has a strong focus on technical aspect, which is really rigorous and requires you to read research papers

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

It would be useful to revise statistics and finance concepts. However, while some prior knowledge of programming would be helpful, it is not necessary as the essential languages will be taught at the beginning.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

The class size is small, and students who have a keen interest in financial markets and statistical modeling, and who enjoy hands-on and unstructured explanatory learning are likely to score better.

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Revised materials from COR-STAT1202 Intro Stats, FNCE101 Fin and FNCE102 FMI to have a good foundation in these required areas. Enter into the course with an open mind and be ready to self-learn certain things. Seniors' notes might not be that readily available considering this rather niche field of study.

ACCT421 ANALYTICS FOR VALUE INVESTING

How did you prepare for tests and examinations?

Practiced diligently and went for consultations whenever doubts arose. By doing so, it aids in the grasping of concepts quickly, with a better understanding while gaining familiarity with the professor's style of testing and preferred method of presenting answers.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year(s) / semester(s) would you recommend others to take this module in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT423 AUDIT ANALYTICS (SMU-X)

Experience from the module.

The project was quite time consuming, although the module was not heavy in general, and no finals. The 4 quizzes tested on SQL. Students should be well-equipped with the knowledge of using Tableau and SQL to apply analytics in audit. Necessary to consult profs in studying for this module.

Interaction with industry professionals during the module.

Rather structured process, with a proper introduction of one another and some background info. They are often able to provide key insights that will greatly aid students in their work. Also, they are the ones posing questions during the presentations. Some students even benefit by securing an internship with these companies. Hence, it pays to grab the opportunities to connect when they arise.

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

Identifying and explaining the 3 key audit areas of a particular engagement as they must be significant and relevant to the chosen industry. Application plays a significant role in the analytics segment but is often found challenging.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this module?

Start on your project early.

What is one thing you wished you had known before taking this module?

Possible to score well even without a Data Analytics background. DM-mysql will help in the assignments.

Group mates are preassigned for group projects.

ACCT423 AUDIT ANALYTICS (SMU-X)

How would you have better prepared yourself for this module before taking it?

Taken it after ACCT331 Audit and Assurance and learned SQL beforehand.

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Revised SQL and tableau concepts thoroughly. Referred to the slides consistently - especially for the midterm exam since they are extensive enough.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT424 AUDITING INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SMU-X)

Experience from the module.

It does not entail very heavy content and is an overall enjoyable experience. Many found the IT skills transferable and fun to learn.

Interaction with industry professionals during the module.

Mostly smooth, with some who had given roleplays on actual client-auditor simulation for projects. The process was largely interesting and useful. Professors and professionals were mostly from Deloitte.

What is the most difficult thing about this course?

The project requires you to call the client and enquire for information as well as to do up the project. Students need to be independent as there will not be much guidance provided and slow responses may entail. The project consists of multiple deadlines, each at different stages.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this course?

Be prepared to learn as you do the project. Listen attentively to the professor and clarify as much as possible during class time. Enjoy the process as it is a rather fruitful one.

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this course?

The usefulness of having an audit internship experience prior to this.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Gained some understanding of the various IT Controls and concepts behind them.

ACCT424 AUDITING INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SMU-X)

How did you prepare for the tests and examinations?

Gone through the important concepts taught in class and took note of the various phrasings that might be used by Professors.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT425

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND INVESTIGATION

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course will equip students with the fundamental knowledge on how to investigate financial fraud. Students will not only learn the difference between accounting, auditing and forensics accounting, but towards the end of the course they will be able to apply proven methodologies to conduct financial fraud investigations. The module will begin with identifying what is fraud, the types of fraud schemes, evidence collections and the use of technology for forensic investigations. It will further develop and lay the foundations for forensics analytics, planning for an investigation, conducting interviews and reporting. At the end of the course, students will be ready to take up roles in the field of forensic accounting and investigations.

ACCT426 CYBER RISK AND FORENSICS WORK-STUDY ELECTIVE

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This Cyber Risk and Forensic Work-Study Elective is a six-month internship attachment program at KPMG in Singapore under the SMU-KPMG Cyber Risk and Forensic Work-Study Programme. The WSP is a collaboration between SMU and KPMG in Singapore that aims to train a next generation of cyber-criminal combatants to enter the fast-growing area of financial forensics and cyber forensics. This course offers students first-hand exposure into the cyber world of forensics, cyber security and digital trust. They will be involved in teams performing forensic investigations in both white-collar crimes as well as computer forensic investigations; security reviews of systems in large organisations. These typically are extensions of a regulated entity's financial audits and statements; and IT audits for financial systems. Students will alternate between working four days at KPMG in Singapore, and studying on campus for two courses concurrently, for a period of six months. Students will be assigned to a SMU Faculty Advisor and a KPMG Internship Supervisor.

Note: Course enrolment by application only (ie. not available/listed for BOSS)

ACCT427 ACCOUNTING DATA AND ANALYTICS WORK-STUDY ELECTIVE

What is the most difficult thing about this course?

Managing time - balancing work, study and personal life gets especially tough during the project and exam seasons.

What tip or advice do you have for your peers who are taking this course?

It is important to plan your time well and spread out the workload accordingly. Manage your time and it should be a smoother process.

What is one thing you wish you had known before taking this course?

The common softwares used by the firm so that one can familiarise themselves with their functions beforehand.

How would you have better prepared yourself for the module before taking it?

Watched videos to understand how to use Alteryx and Power Platform apps.

Which other accounting modules do you think this module should not be taken together with in the same semester?

Majority of the students responded NIL.

Which year and semester would you recommend others to take the course in?

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2
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ACCT430 AUDIT AND ASSURANCE WORK-STUDY ELECTIVE

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This Audit and Assurance Work-Study Elective is a six-month internship attachment program at Deloitte in Singapore under the SMU-Deloitte Audit and Assurance Work-Study Programme. The WSP is a collaboration between SMU and Deloitte in Singapore that provides students a robust and holistic understanding of the real-world processes in the auditing field. The future of audit has been evolving due to the complex business landscape, and exponential rate of technological advancement. The work-study attachment at Deloitte will provide students with greater exposure to practice, and lay the foundation for students to perform higher-level audit work when they join the profession.

Note: Course enrolment by application only (ie. not available/listed for BOSS)

ACCT431 SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course presents a review and analysis of the theoretical foundations of sustainability accounting and its reporting issues in practice. The course will focus on existing and emerging frameworks for developing corporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance metrics, assessing their reliability, reporting to stakeholders, and incentivizing managers based on ESG metrics. Specifically, we will examine both the accounting for an organization's environmental, social, and economic impacts via its activities as well as how an organization is dependent on and affected by the environmental, social, and economic context in which it operates.

ACCT432 FINANCIAL FORENSICS WORK-STUDY ELECTIVE

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

The Financial Forensics Work-Study Elective is an extended internship attachment programme at OCBC Bank under the SMU Financial Forensics Work-Study Elective Programme. The WSEP aims to equip students with accounting know-how and financial forensic-related knowledge in real-world situations. Accounting professionals play a key role in investigating, detecting, and preventing financial crimes and fraud. Students can expect to go through an immersive experience in one (or more) division at OCBC: Group Legal and Compliance, Group Finance, and Group Audit.

Students will alternate between working four days at OCBC Bank, and studying on campus for two courses concurrently during the internship period. Students will be assigned to a SMU Faculty Advisor and an OCBC Internship Supervisor.

**ACCOUNTING
ELECTIVES
(OFFERED BY
OTHER
SCHOOLS)**

IS105 BUSINESS DATA MANAGEMENT

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course will cover the fundamentals of relational database theory, important data management concepts such as data modeling, database design, database implementation and searches in unstructured data (i.e., text) in current business information systems for students in non-IS or non-CS majors. A series of in-class exercises, tests, pop quiz and the course project will help students understand covered topics. Students are expected to apply knowledge learned in the classroom to solve many problems based upon real-life business scenarios, while gaining hands-on experiences in designing, implementing, and managing database systems.

Note: Students who are intending to do a 2nd major from SIS should take IS112 Data Management instead. You will need to declare the 2nd major FIRST.

IS111 INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course is intended for any student who wishes to gain some programming fundamentals, also known as the building blocks of Information Systems. The course introduces students to fundamental programming concepts and constructs, explains the process of developing a basic software application, and explains the basic concepts of object orientation. The student will experience the implementation of a basic software application. Python, a widely-used, high-level, general-purpose and interactive programming language, is used as the vehicle of exploration in this course.

IS445 CORPORATE BANKING TECHNOLOGY

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course explores the corporate and institutional banking functional domain and technology, as well as the emerging non-bank FinTech alternatives. This course module begins by reviewing banking solution delivery processes, and identifying the various corporate banking customer segments and their needs. These considerations are then examined in different corporate banking business contexts. In the context of corporate customer needs, the traditional product areas of corporate lending, cash management & payments, trade finance, and corporate treasury are covered. In the later part of the course, we cover institutional banking customers and product, and their role in the credit crisis of 2008 to understand what happened and the implications going forward. Finally, we will cover digital banking channels, and API use cases for corporate banking. Emphasis is placed throughout the course on analysing real-world solutions using case studies and gaining hands-on experience with banking systems.

IS452 BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course explores blockchains and smart contracts in the context of financial services. The fundamentals of blockchains and smart contracts are first explained and then the similarities and differences of public and private blockchains are shown. Various blockchain platforms are considered as well as the end-to-end implementation of a range of services, for example supply chain financing. The course has hands-on development, deployment and execution of smart contracts using Solidity for Ethereum and the FISCO BCOS blockchain platform. Emphasis is placed throughout the course on analysing real-world situations using case studies and gaining hands-on experience with financial systems.

IS1453 FINANCIAL ANALYTICS

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due it being a new course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

Financial analytics is to identify insights from vast amount of data that most of the financial institutions have to help them to answer specific business questions and to forecast possible future financial scenarios. Banks are investing a lot of money on the use of data analytics in their daily business processes from customer acquisition, targeting the customers to cross-sell and up-selling and fraud detection. With such massive amounts of data collected and huge potential value that are found in these data for marketing, risk management and business process improvement; thus, the demand for analytics professionals to make sense of these data is also increasing. The skills and knowledge that are needed for analytics professional in the banks would require a wide array of skills such as data management, analysis, mathematics & statistics, business and not forgetting intimate knowledge of the financial services domain, especially regulations and compliance. The module aims to bring these skills and knowledge together, to bridge the gap between analytics techniques and their applications in financial institutions. Using current applications of analytics in financial institution, coupled with class discussion, labs and guest speakers from the industry, the students can understand how domain knowledge (such as banking objectives and regulations) interacts with the other areas of the analytics value chain. This module is also designed to take advantage of the diversity in students' background to give varied points-of-view during each lab project and discussion.

IS1453 FINANCIAL ANALYTICS

Course Description (cont)

This closely emulates the environment of many bank's analytics. To ensure students have the required level of knowledge and skills, prerequisites are set. After the module, students would be able to identify potential areas with consideration on the current banking landscape shaped by regional and local regulators, being able to state down the challenges in the implementation, allowing them to propose valuable analytics solutions that are actionable by the financial institutions. This will give them an edge in their financial services analytics career.

CS440 FOUNDATIONS OF CYBER SECURITY

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

The Foundations of Cybersecurity course provides fundamental knowledge and technical skills for protecting computing and networking systems against various cyber-attacks. Topics covered include cryptographic algorithms, public key infrastructure, network security, authentication, access control, web security basics, and malware basics. Classroom instructions will be integrated with hands-on exercises and group projects.

LGST236 FINANCIAL CRIME

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course will introduce students to key issues in domestic and international financial crime. It begins with the basic principles of criminal law in Singapore. Students will also learn how evidence is obtained in the course of investigations and how that evidence may be used to charge and convict offenders in court. The course will then progress to cover the major types of financial crime, such as: (1) cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal misappropriation of property; (2) corruption; (3) market misconduct: insider trading and market manipulation; (4) tax evasion; and (5) money laundering and terrorist financing. Efforts to combat international financial crime, e.g. the setting up of the Financial Action Task Force, anti-money laundering procedures, and mutual legal assistance and exchange of information regimes, will also be discussed in this course. This course will be taught with its main audience in mind, namely, students taking a second major in Financial Forensics offered by the School of Accountancy.

LAW307 LAW OF EVIDENCE

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

The Law of Evidence is primarily concerned with the Evidence Act's conceptualisation of relevance and admissibility of evidence in Singapore. "Exclusionary" rules such as hearsay, similar fact, and expert opinion will be explored. Other topics include standard and burden of proof, privilege, and statements. The relationship between the Evidence Act and the common law, as well as certain features of Singapore's justice system, are key themes.

LAW492 DISPUTE RESOLUTION: THE ROLE OF EXPERTS

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

The commercial world is full of agreements, some of which will inevitably fall into dispute. Those disputes can be resolved through many mechanisms from negotiation through to the more contentious litigation. As commerce has become more complex so have the disputes. This has given rise to the increasing need for expert witnesses or advisors across fields such as finance & accounting, construction, shipping, law, IT and the sciences (microbiology, geology, chemistry, engineering etc.). This course looks at the role of experts in the dispute resolution process. The course draws its examples from the two most commonly used expert types, being Finance/Accounting and Construction experts. The course culminates in a mock trial where participants will have the opportunity to cross examine experts. This course is ideal for lawyers interested in a career in dispute resolution and non-lawyers considering careers as expert witnesses in their chosen profession, particularly Chartered Accountants and Chartered Surveyors.

FNCE234 REAL ESTATE VALUATION AND TAXATION

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of real estate appraisal and valuation for both commercial and statutory/taxation purposes. It integrates the knowledge and methods from several real estate-related disciplines such as land law, urban economics, urban planning, finance & investment, building design and construction, and government policies, into a specialized field of study that supports the real estate industry, and prepares students for a real estate and valuation career in both private and public sectors. Students will learn about the unique characteristics of real estate, the distinct features of the real estate market, and learn to apply valuation principles and techniques in real estate appraisal and valuation on which most real estate decisions are based. The extensive use of actual examples and case studies in this course will help students relate to the real and practical issues which they are likely to encounter as real estate professionals and practitioners in both the private and public sectors. This course is supported by the Singapore Institute of Valuers & Surveyors (SISV) for SISV membership, subject to certain conditions.

FNCE315 ANALYTICS IN FINANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Student feedback on this module is unavailable due to the small size of the class completed the course.

If you have previously completed this course, we would like to hear from you through email (accsoc@sa.smu.edu.sg).

Course Description

The aim of this course is to help students to apply econometrics theory with big data in finance and real estate in the real world. Students will learn both the data analysis methods and how to use statistical software to apply these methods. This course will be empirically oriented, with an emphasis on causal identification using various methods such as randomized control trial, differences-in-differences, and regression discontinuity design. This course will focus on applied econometric issues with cross section and panel data. This course will also introduce machine learning methods and its application in finance and real estate.



ASoc 19th Management Committee

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