



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Summer 2023

Contact Info

Professor: Leslie Robinson

- Office: 114 Buchanan
- Phone: 603-646-4018
- Email: Leslie.A.Robinson@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU

Academic Coordinator:

- Office: 004 Woodbury
- Phone: 603-646-6992
- Elijah LaPlaca elijah.j.laplaca@tuck.dartmouth.edu

Course Scribe: [Lydia McCollum](#)

T'25 Course Reps:

- Section 1: Rushika Athia + David Kalb
- Section 3: Neemah Muhammadraji

T'24 Teaching Assistants:

- Gabriela Loureiro: Gabriela.Loureiro.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Summer Lagambi: Summer.A.Legmbi.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Benjamin Jones: Benjamin.F.Jones.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Allison Forlenza: Allison.E.Forlenza.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Rahul Talati: Rahul.S.Talati.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Shane Kim: Shane.Kim.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Udhav Gupta: Udhav.Gupta.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU
- Gagan Makhija: Gagan.Makhija.TU24@Tuck.Dartmouth.EDU

Course Objectives

The core Financial Accounting course at Tuck is managerially oriented and focuses on the most salient aspects of accounting. It is designed to help MBA students learn how to read, analyze, and interpret financial accounting data to make informed business decisions. Students should not expect to become technical experts, but rather to be able to confidently converse with accountants and non-accountants in a future career in business. You will learn the *concepts* that underlie financial statements and develop intuition needed to make connections between accounting and other disciplines such as finance, strategy, marketing and economics. The concepts and applications from this course will benefit any student interested in working in the financial services industry, corporate/strategic development of a business, as well as working in marketing, brand management or operations for a corporation and being responsible for a product or divisional budget, projections and profit/loss statement.

Course Materials

1. Calcbench

You will need to setup an account with Calcbench at <https://www.calcbench.com/dartmouth>. We will use this financial tool to examine accounting disclosures and analyze financial data contained in 10-Ks and 10-Qs throughout the course. If you have any trouble, please email support@calcbench.com.

2. Financial Accounting for MBAs Textbook (Optional eBook)

If you are new to accounting you might find the eBook useful. There are course notes for each topic but the eBook is more extensive and with many examples. Background reading from the eBook, however, will also take more time as the course notes are more condensed. The eBook is **Financial Accounting for MBAs**, 8th Edition, by P. Easton, J. Wild, R. Halsey, and M. McAnally 2021, Cambridge Business Publishers. **If you wish to access the eBook, instructions are below. There is no cost to you.**

1. Go to your course in Canvas.
2. Find and launch any myBusinessCourse assignments.
3. If it is your first time integrating and you do not have an account with myBusinessCourse, one will automatically be created for you. If you already have an account, you will be prompted to login.
4. Enter the following access code in the *Enter Access Code* option:
89pBUtkYCb9gnTKs
5. Select **Submit**

If you have any trouble, please email mbcsupport@cambridgepub.com.

Sharing the access code above with anyone other than T'25s enrolled in Sections 1 and 3 is a violation of the Tuck Academic Honor Principle.

Course Grade

Course grades in Financial Accounting are based on class participation (10%), homework assignments (30%), the midterm (30%), the financial forecast project (10%), and the final exam (20%). Note that there is a mixture of group and individual assignments (i.e., most assignments for the first few weeks are to be completed individually although collaboration is encouraged). The final project has both a group component and an individual component. Exams are strictly individual work.

Class Preparation

Class preparation documents for each class session are provided on Canvas. They include a summary of key concepts covered, suggestions for background reading, class notes and required homework that will be graded. Refer to each homework assignment in Canvas for details regarding what to submit. Note that some assignments (those completed in the first few weeks) are to be completed individually, while later assignments are completed in your assigned study groups.

You should prepare the required homework assignments **before class** (including consideration of study questions that do not need to be handed in) and be ready to participate actively in the class discussion. Homework will be graded based on perceived effort (i.e., 0 = nothing handed in; 1 = poor effort; 2 = good effort). I will drop your two lowest homework grades at the end of the course.

Assignments should be uploaded to Canvas **prior to class (for group assignments, you only need to upload one solution per group)**. Please format your answers to make them easy to read. Much of our discussion in class, as well as exam questions, will build directly on the concepts covered in the assignments. As such, I encourage you to review all assignments individually and in your groups to ensure that you truly understand the key concepts covered in each assignment.

Your grade in the course (not to mention your understanding of financial accounting) will almost certainly suffer if you do not keep up with the assignments or delegate assignments to group members. Late homework will not be graded.

Support Outside of Class Hours

You will find faculty/TA support outside of the classroom in three ways. Note that office hours and optional review sessions will populate your Outlook calendar as part of your normal course Exchange sync. These events will appear as free time.

1. Faculty Office Hours:

<https://dartmouth.zoom.us/my/lesrob>

Professor Robinson will be available to answer clarification questions about upcoming assignments, or to review solutions to past assignments on a first come first serve basis.

Virtual (Zoom): 7:00pm - 8:00pm: Aug. 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, Sep. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, Oct. 1, 3

2. Teaching Assistant (TA) Office Hours:

Two TAs will be available to answer clarification questions about upcoming assignments, or to review solutions to past assignments on a first come first serve basis.

In-person (Barclay): 7:00pm - 8:00pm: Aug. 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, Sep. 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 26, 27, Oct. 1, 3, 5

3. Review Session with TAs:

During these optional sessions, you will solve practice problems related to each week's material. Both the problems and solutions are posted in Canvas. You are encouraged to work on these problems regardless of whether you do so during the review session as they are a good way for you to gauge your understanding of the material.

In-person (Rosenwald): 5:00pm - 6:00pm on Aug. 24, 31, Sep. 7, 21, 28

Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm and final exam will be administered *online* and accessed via Canvas as an Assignment. Therefore, all practice midterm and final exams are also available in Canvas as online exams.

Completion of the online practice exams is optional and will not impact your course grade, however, a side benefit to looking at them is that the more familiar you are with the 'look and feel' of online testing the more comfortable you will be on the day of the actual midterm and final. If you actively participate in the learning process, attend all class sessions, and diligently complete all of the homework assignments, you will be prepared to tackle the content of these exams.

MIDTERM

The online midterm exam will be offered on Friday, September 15th from 9am - 12pm.

I will host an optional midterm review on Thursday, September 14th from 3:20pm - 4:50pm in **Georgiopoulos**. We will review key concepts covered during class sessions 1 through 9.

FINAL

The online final exam will be offered on Friday, October 6th from 9am - 12pm.

I will host an optional final review on Thursday, October 5th from 3:20pm - 4:50pm in **Cook**. We will review key concepts covered during class sessions 10 through 14. Expect the final exam to feel cumulative in nature, as content builds throughout the course.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Absences, except for emergencies, may adversely impact your final class participation grade (missing class for recruiting activities is not an excused absence). If you must miss a class, **please email elijah.j.laplaca@tuck.dartmouth.edu prior to class, noting the reason for your absence**. Of course, you remain responsible for knowing the material and for completing assignments that are due on a day you miss. Otherwise, there is nothing to do to 'make up' a missed class.

Tuck Academic Honor Principle

The Tuck Faculty take the Tuck Academic Honor Principle seriously and view it as a critical aspect of the learning environment.

Tuck's Academic Honor Principle: "Integrity and honesty in the performance of academic activities, both in the classroom and outside, are essential to the educational experience for which the Tuck School has always stood. Each member of the Tuck community accepts the personal responsibility to uphold and defend high ethical standards in all academic endeavors, and to promote an atmosphere in which honest and imaginative academic work may flourish."

The prevalence of group work is consistent with Tuck's philosophy that much of your education will come from each other. At the same time, it is essential for you to master the material on your own and to evidence this mastery on exams taken as individuals. Thus, while group assignments should be completed in groups, putting your name on the assignment certifies that you helped in its preparation and understand essentially all of the answers provided (not just a small component assigned to you).

All exams must be completed without outside help and reflect individual work.

It is also a violation of the Academic Honor Principle to use course materials from previous years without my explicit permission.

Schedule

Session	Day	Date	Topic
1	Tues	Aug 22	Introducing financial accounting
2	Wed	Aug 23	Constructing financial statements
3	Thurs	Aug 24	Accruals and deferrals
4	Wed	Aug 30	Earnings versus cash flow
5	Thurs	Aug 31	Revenue recognition
6	Wed	Sept 6	Cash flow reporting
7	Thurs	Sept 7	Financial analysis
8	Wed	Sept 13	Building a three-statement model
9	Thurs	Sept 14	Using a three-statement model
	Fri	Sept 15	Midterm Exam
10	Wed	Sept 20	Accounts receivable & revenue
11	Thurs	Sept 21	Inventory & cost of goods sold
12	Wed	Sept 27	Long-term assets & depreciation and amortization
13	Thurs	Sept 28	Equity & share issuance and repurchase
14	Wed	Oct 4	Liabilities & interest expense
15	Thur	Oct 5	Final project presentations
	Fri	Oct 6	Final Exam