



ACCT20074 Contemporary Accounting Theory

Term 1 - 2025

Profile information current as at 26/03/2025 05:33 am

All details in this unit profile for ACCT20074 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit engages students to establish an advanced understanding of the nature and development of accounting theory and its application and regulation. It builds on the students' technical skills and their foundational knowledge of accounting practice. The topics covered include the history and development of accounting, traditional approaches to the formulation of accounting, standard setting and institutional arrangements, harmonisation of accounting standards, a range of theoretical perspectives and the links between accounting theory, research and practice.

Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 9*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Students must successfully complete ACCT20071 Foundations of Financial Accounting prior to enrolling in this unit.

Students who have successfully completed ACCT29083 Theory of Accounting cannot enrol in this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2025

- Brisbane
- Melbourne
- Online
- Sydney

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Postgraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Test**

Weighting: 10%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

3. **Take Home Exam**

Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from SUTE evaluation.

Feedback

Feedback on assessment items

Recommendation

Provide more relevant feedback on assessment items.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
2. Analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories
3. Select and use effective project and research skills to evaluate individually and synthesise accounting knowledge, and communicate findings in an appropriately professional format
4. Demonstrate critical thinking applying the knowledge of accounting theories
5. Reflecting on Feedback from Others to improve Performance.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Online Test - 10%	•	•			
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•	•
3 - Take Home Exam - 50%	•	•		•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Knowledge	○	○	○	○	○
2 - Communication	○	○	○		○
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills				○	

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
4 - Research	○	○	○		
5 - Self-management					
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility					
7 - Leadership					
8 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 - Online Test - 10%	○							
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	○	○		○				
3 - Take Home Exam - 50%	○		○					

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

ACCT20074

Prescribed

Contemporary Issues in Accounting

Edition: Third (2023)

Authors: Rankin et al.

John Wiley & Sons Australia Ltd

Milton, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

ISBN: E-Text 9780730397830 / Print 9780730397823

Binding: eBook

If you are having issues accessing the eBook at the Library website, both paper and eBook copies can be purchased at the CQUni Bookshop here: <http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Kazi Islam Unit Coordinator

k.islam@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 An introduction to theoretical perspective of accounting - 10 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
An introduction to theoretical perspective of accounting	1	

Week 2 The conceptual framework for financial reporting - 17 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The conceptual framework for financial reporting	5	

Week 3 Standard setting for financial reporting - 24 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Standard setting for financial reporting	2	

Week 4 Measurement in accounting - 31 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Measurement in accounting	3	Quiz 1 will appear online in Moodle in Week 4. Assessment 2 will be available in moodle in Week 4

Week 5 Specific theories for understanding and explaining accounting/reporting practice - 07 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Specific theories for understanding and explaining accounting/reporting practice	4	

Vacation Week - 14 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 Products of the accounting system - 21 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Products of the accounting system	13	

Week 7 The role of corporate governance in corporate accountability and reporting - 28 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The role of corporate governance in corporate accountability and reporting	6	Online Quiz 1 is due Week 7 Friday 11.45 PM AEST.

Week 8 Capital market research in examining the reactions to accounting information - 05 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Capital market research in examining the reactions to accounting information 8

Week 9 The effects of earnings management on reported earnings and corporate failure - 12 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The effects of earnings management on reported earnings and corporate failure	9	Quiz 2 will appear online in Moodle in Week 9.

Week 10 Fair value accounting - 19 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Fair value accounting	12	Written Assessment Due: Week 10 Monday (19 May 2025) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 11 Sustainability and corporate social responsibility - 26 May 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sustainability and corporate social responsibility	10	

Week 12 - 02 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review		Online Quiz 2 is due Week 12 Friday 11.45 PM AEST.

Review/Exam Week - 09 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
No teaching in this week		

Exam Week - 16 Jun 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam advice including exam time and chapters to be covered in the exam will be available in moodle in week 10.		

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment 1: Online Test

Assessment Type

Online Test

Task Description

This assessment item is an individual task which comprises two online quizzes (quiz 1 and quiz 2) of 5 marks each. That is, each quiz will be assessed for 5% of the total marks of this unit. Each quiz consists of multiple choice questions randomly generated from a pool of questions. Quiz 1 will appear online in Moodle in Week 4. Quiz 2 will appear online in Moodle in Week 9. Both quizzes will remain open until the due date and time provided for completion of those quizzes. Each quiz is set on the basis of specific modules as under:

Quiz (Online Test) 1: Modules 1–6

Quiz (Online Test) 2: Modules 7–11.

You will need to see the related chapters that are covered in different modules as stated above. If any student faces technical difficulties with Moodle or network communications while trying to undertake these quizzes should email the unit coordinator immediately, and where appropriate a second attempt may be arranged.

Assessment Due Date

Online Quiz 1 is due Week 7 Friday 11.45 PM AEST. Online Quiz 2 is due Week 12 Friday 11.45 PM AEST.

Return Date to Students

The results of these online quizzes will be made available as soon as each quiz is submitted.

Weighting

10%

Assessment Criteria

Each quiz comprises multiple questions for 5 marks. Mark will be provided on the basis of one correct (or most correct) answer to each question.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
- Analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories

Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge

2 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This is an individual task that is designed for 40% of the total marks of this unit. The assignment will require students to undertake research examining how selected theories, accounting standards and frameworks guide the preparation of annual reports of listed companies. Unless otherwise suggested by the unit coordinator, companies will be selected from the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

The unit coordinator will advise which company/ies will have to be selected. The assessment will be available in moodle in Week 4.

This assessment requires students to adhere to the guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools as specified in the Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale (AIAS). Any misuse or lack of disclosure regarding the use of AI tools will be considered a breach of academic integrity.

AI scale 2:

You may use AI for planning, idea development, and research. Your final submission should show how you have developed and refined these ideas.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Monday (19 May 2025) 11:45 pm AEST

Assignment must be submitted on or before the due date specified via Moodle submission facility.

Return Date to Students

Week 12 Friday (6 June 2025)

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Detailed marking criteria will be provided in the assessment in moodle with due consideration of the following:

Demonstration of knowledge of relevant theories, accounting standards and frameworks

Ability to analyse and explain company annual reporting practices applying relevant theories, accounting standards and frameworks

Correct referencing, appropriate grammar, readability and structure of the report.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory

- environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
- Analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories
- Select and use effective project and research skills to evaluate individually and synthesise accounting knowledge, and communicate findings in an appropriately professional format
- Demonstrate critical thinking applying the knowledge of accounting theories
- Reflecting on Feedback from Others to improve Performance.

Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Research

3 Take Home Examination

Assessment Type

Take Home Exam

Task Description

This is an individual task that is designed for 50% of the total marks of this unit. For this exam, students will have to learn multiple concepts and theories covered in the unit.

Exam advice including exam time and chapters to be covered in the exam will be available in moodle in week 10.

This assessment requires students to adhere to the guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools as specified in the Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale (AIAS). Any misuse or lack of disclosure regarding the use of AI tools will be considered a breach of academic integrity.

AI scale 2:

You may use AI for planning, idea development, and research. Your final submission should show how you have developed and refined these ideas.

Assessment Due Date

Detailed information of take home exam will be provided in moodle in week 10.

Return Date to Students

Results will not be published before certification date.

Weighting

50%

Assessment Criteria

Take Home Exam will be assessed against marks for each question. Student's depth of knowledge about various concepts and theories will be taken into consideration while marking.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Relevant instructions will be published in moodle.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Critically evaluate the Australian accounting and reporting regulatory environment, comparing it to regulatory environments in other countries as well as their progress in the international harmonisation project
- Analyse complex and current business issues through the lens of appropriately selected and applied theories
- Demonstrate critical thinking applying the knowledge of accounting theories
- Reflecting on Feedback from Others to improve Performance.

Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem