ASOC

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

MODULE DIFFICULTY GUIDEBOOK

SMU ACCOUNTING SOCIETY

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.

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COURSE SEQUENCE (RECOMMENDED TERM)

Accounting Modules	Suggested Timeline by SOA
ACCT111 Financial Accounting	Pre-assigned for students during Y1S1 (for Intake AY2019 onwards)
ACCT112 Management Accounting	Pre-assigned for students during Y1S2 (for Intake AY2019 onwards) & Y2S1 (for Intake AY2018 & earlier)
ACCT221 Accounting Information Systems	Recommended to take in Y2
ACCT223 Taxation	
ACCT224 Financial Reporting and Analysis	
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	
COR3302 Ethics and Social Responsibility for Accounting (Uni Core)	

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 > 2021-2022 > 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.

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 three to eight 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 ACCOUNTING DATA & ANALYTICS (BACC)

Required Modules

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">5 COMPULSORY MODULES</th></tr>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Modules</th><th colspan="2">Double Counting Options</th></tr>
<tr><th>Intake 2018 & earlier</th><th>Intake 2019 onwards</th></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT221 Accounting Information Systems</td><td colspan="2">Accounting Core</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS105 Business Data Management</td><td>Technology Studies</td><td rowspan="2">Accounting Elective</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT418 Data Modelling and Visualisation</td><td rowspan="3">Accounting Option</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT337 Statistical Programming (formerly known as ACCT 419 Statistical Programming)</td><td>Accounting Core</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT414 Accounting Analytics Capstone</td><td>Accounting Elective</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="3">3 ELECTIVE MODULES</th></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT420 Forecasting and Forensic Analytics</td><td rowspan="11">Additional Module #1, #2 & #3</td><td rowspan="11">Free Elective #1, #2, & #3</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT421 Analytics for Value Investing</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT423 Audit Analytics</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT424 Auditing Information Systems</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS111 Introduction to Programming</td></tr>
<tr><td>FNCE315 Analytics for Finance & Real Estate</td></tr>
<tr><td>CS440 Foundations of Cybersecurity</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS452 Blockchain Applications in Financial Services</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS453 Financial Analytics</td></tr>
</table>

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 five 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)

Required Modules

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">5 COMPULSORY MODULES</th></tr>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Modules</th><th colspan="2">Double Counting Options</th></tr>
<tr><th>Intake 2018 & earlier</th><th>Intake 2019 onwards</th></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT425 Forensic Accounting and Investigation</td><td>Accounting Option</td><td rowspan="3">Accounting Elective</td></tr>
<tr><td>LGST236 Financial Crime</td><td>Additional Module #1</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT410 Internal Audit (SMU-X)</td><td>Accounting Option</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT420 Forecasting & Forensic Analytics</td><td>Additional Module #2</td><td>Free Elective #1</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS105 Business Data Management</td><td>Technology Studies</td><td>Free Elective #2</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="3">3 ELECTIVE MODULES</th></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT417 Insolvency & Restructuring</td><td rowspan="12">Additional Module #3, #4 and #5</td><td rowspan="12">Free Elective #3
+
Additional Module #1, and #2</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT418 Data Modelling & Visualisation</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT423 Audit Analytics (SMU-X)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT424 Auditing Information Systems (SMU-X)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ACCT426 Cyber Risk & Forensics Work-Study Elective</td></tr>
<tr><td>CS440 Foundations of Cybersecurity</td></tr>
<tr><td>LAW307 Law of Evidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>LAW492: Dispute Resolution: The Role of Experts</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS111 Introduction to Programming</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS452 Blockchain Applications in Financial Services</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS453 Financial Analytics</td></tr>
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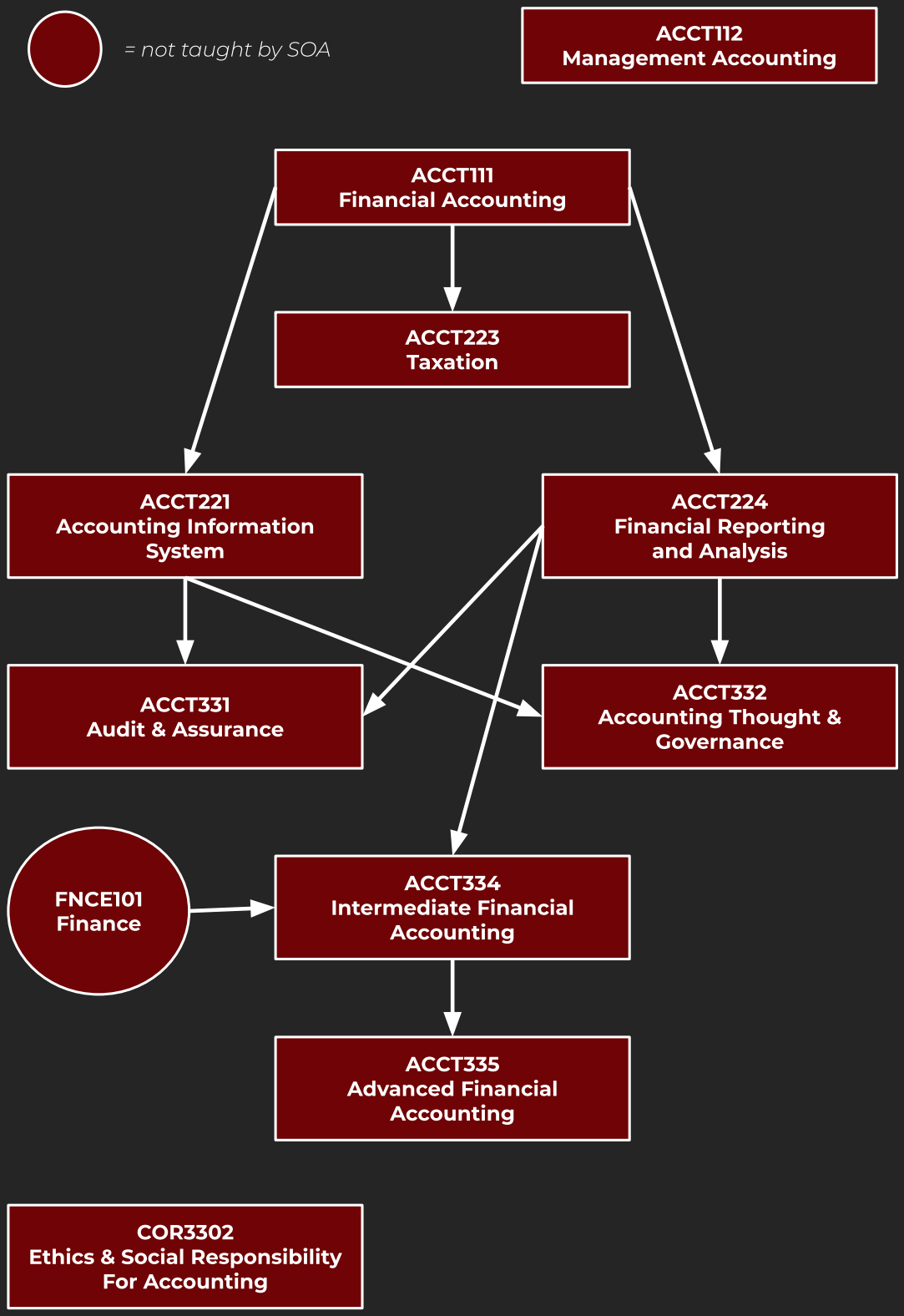
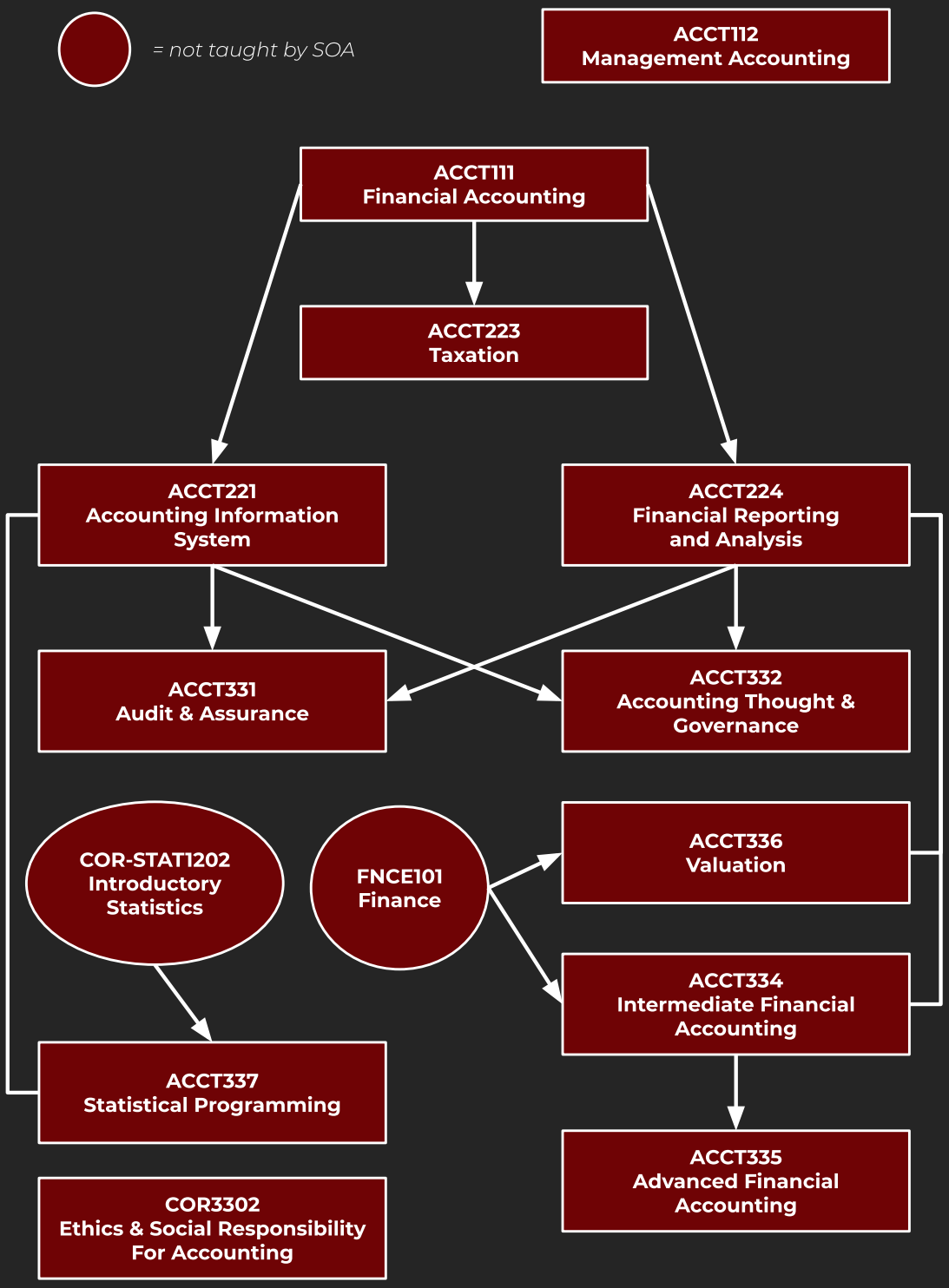
FOR INTAKES AY 2018 & BEFORE



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

FOR INTAKES AY 2019 ONWARDS



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

PREREQUISITES FOR ACCOUNTING OPTIONS (AY2018 INTAKE & EARLIER) / ACCOUNTING ELECTIVES (AY2019 INTAKE ONWARDS)

Accounting Options/Electives	*Prerequisites / #Corequisites
ACCT336 - Valuation (Accounting Core for AY19 Intake Onwards)	*ACCT224 - Financial Reporting & Analysis *FNCE101 - Finance
ACCT337 - Statistical Programming (Accounting Core for AY19/20 Intake onwards)	*COR-STAT1202 - Introductory Statistics / COR-STAT1203 - Introduction to Statistical Theory #ACCT221 – Accounting Information Systems / IS210 – Business Process Analysis & Solutioning
ACCT 401 - Strategic Management Accounting	*ACCT112 - Management Accounting
ACCT403 - Advanced Taxation	*ACCT223 - Taxation
ACCT407 - Corporate Financial Management	*ACCT112 - Management Accounting *ACCT224 - Financial Reporting and Analysis
ACCT409 - Auditing for the Public Sector	*ACCT221 – Accounting Information System
ACCT410 - Internal Audit (SMU-X)	*ACCT221 - Accounting Information System
ACCT414 - Accounting Analytics Capstone (SMU-X)	*ACCT418 - Data Modelling and Visualisation / ANLY104 - Analytics Foundation
ACCT417 - Insolvency and Restructuring	*ACCT111 - Financial Accounting #LGST201 - Company Law
ACCT418 - Data Modelling and Visualisation	*ACCT111 - Financial Accounting

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

PREREQUISITES FOR ACCOUNTING OPTIONS (AY2018 INTAKE & EARLIER) /ACCOUNTING ELECTIVES (AY2019 INTAKE ONWARDS)

Accounting Options/Electives	* Prerequisites / #Corequisites
ACCT420 - Forecasting and Forensic Analytics	*ACCT337 - Statistical Programming / DSA211 - Statistical Learning with R
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 *Pass in FNCE101 – Finance / A- in FNCE103 Finance for Law
ACCT423 - Audit Analytics (SMU-X)	*ACCT331 - Audit & Assurance
ACCT424 - Auditing Information Systems (SMU-X)	*ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems / IS210 - Business Process Analysis & Solutioning
IS105 - Business Data Management	NIL
IS111 - Introduction to Programming	
FNCE234 - Real Estate Valuation & Taxation	*Pass in FNCE101 – Finance / A- in FNCE103 - Finance for Law
FNCE315 - Analytics in Finance & Real Estate	*Pass in FNCE101 – Finance / A- in 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 I

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

PREREQUISITES FOR 2ND MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING DATA AND ANALYTICS

Compulsory Modules	* Prerequisites / #Corequisites
ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems	*ACCT111 - Financial Accounting / ACCT105 - Financial Accounting for Law
ACCT418 - Data Modelling & Visualisation	*ACCT111 - Financial Accounting / ACCT105 – Financial Accounting for Law
ACCT337 – Statistical Programming (Accounting Core for AY19 Intake Onwards)	*COR-STAT1202 - Introductory Statistics / COR-STAT1203 - Introduction to Statistical Theory #ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems / IS210 - Business Process Analysis & Solutioning
IS105 - Business Data Management	NIL
ACCT414 - Accounting Analytics Capstone (SMU-X)	*ACCT418 - Data Modelling & Visualisation / ANLY104 - Analytics Foundation

Electives	* Prerequisites / #Corequisites
ACCT220 - Forecasting & Forensic Analytics	*ACCT337 - Statistical Programming / DSA211 - Statistical Learning with R
ACCT421 - Analytics for Value Investing	*COR-STAT1202 - Introductory Statistics / COR-STAT1203 Introduction to Statistical Theory *ACCT224 - Financial Reporting & Analysis / ACCT201 Corporate Reporting & Financial Analysis *Pass in FNCE101 – Finance / A- in FNCE103 Finance for Law
ACCT423 - Audit Analytics (SMU-X)	*ACCT331 - Audit & Assurance
ACCT424 - Auditing Information Systems (SMU-X)	*ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems / IS210 - Business Process Analysis & Solutioning
IS111 - Introduction to Programming	NIL
FNCE315 - Analytics in Finance & Real Estate	*Pass in FNCE101 – Finance / A- in 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 I
IS452 - Blockchain Applications in Financial Services	NIL
IS453 - Financial Analytics	

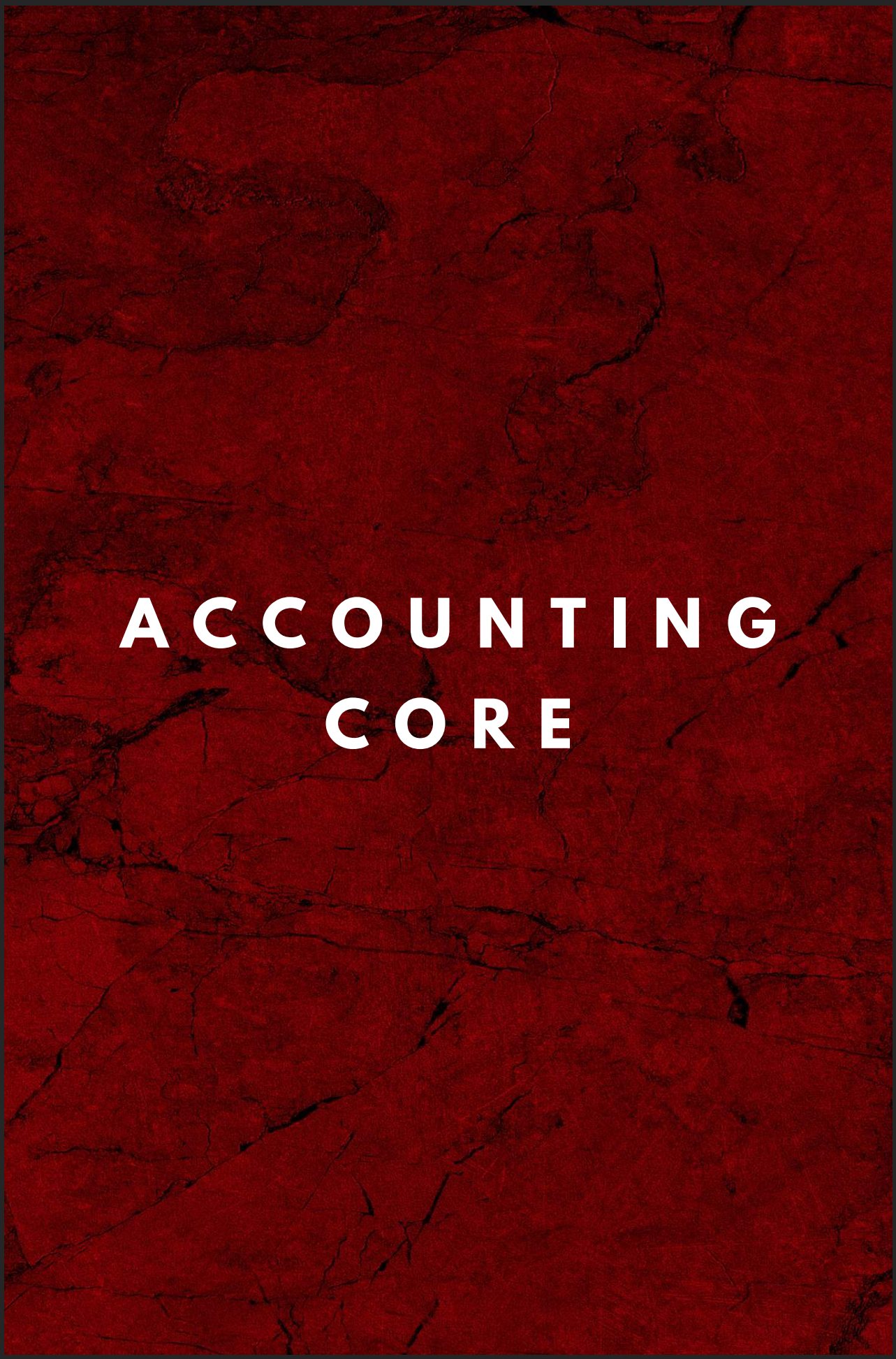
Note: Prerequisites may change from time to time. Refer to Course Catalogue for latest information

PREREQUISITES FOR 2ND MAJOR IN FINANCIAL FORENSICS

Compulsory Modules	* Prerequisites / #Corequisites
ACCT410 - Internal Audit (SMU-X)	*ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems
ACCT420 - Forecasting & Forensic Analytics	*ACCT337 - Statistical Programming / DSA211 - Statistical Learning with R
ACCT425 - Forensic Accounting & Investigation	*ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems
IS105 - Business Data Management	**NIL**
LGST236 - Financial Crime	*LGST101 - Business Law

Electives	* Prerequisites / #Corequisites
ACCT417 - Insolvency & Restructuring	*ACCT111 - Financial Accounting / ACCT105 - Financial Accounting for Law #LGST201 - Company Law
ACCT418 – Data Modelling & Visualisation	*ACCT111 - Financial Accounting / ACCT105 – Financial Accounting for Law
ACCT423 - Audit Analytics (SMU-X)	*ACCT331 - Audit & Assurance
ACCT424 - Auditing Information Systems (SMU-X)	*ACCT221 - Accounting Information Systems / IS210 - Business Process Analysis & Solutioning
CS440 - Foundations of Cybersecurity	*IS111 – Introduction to Programming / IS200 - IS Software Foundations / SMT111 – Programming for Smart City Solutions / CS101 – Programming Fundamentals I
LAW307 - Law of Evidence	*LGST101 - Business Law / LGST201 – Company Law
LAW492 - Dispute Resolution: The Role of Experts	**NIL**
ACCT426 Cyber Risk & Forensics Work-Study Elective	
IS111 – Introduction to Programming	
IS452 - Blockchain Applications in Financial Services	
IS453 - Financial Analytics	

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


ACCOUNTING
CORE

ACCT111
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

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.

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

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

ACCT111
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

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

It is important to pre-read content before each lesson and to watch FALO Videos. Ensure that you have truly understood and internalised the accounting concepts before moving to the next chapter and keep practicing and complete your homework to gain exposure to different type of questions. The module is also extremely time consuming. Choose to work on the practices wisely as some of them are extremely basic and not worth the timedoing. Seek as many clarifications as possible with your professors when in doubt. A strong understanding of the concepts and good time management are vital for the Final Exam.

Given that final exam is only three hours long, time management is the key. Focus on the presentation and format as questions are usually very long. Workbook is not sufficient for finals.

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

This module is the fundamental block for many other accounting modules. Reading the textbook beforehand will greatly aid in the understanding of the various accounting concepts. Consistent work and understanding of the fundamental concepts will be instrumental in building a strong foundation for the subsequent accounting modules in the semesters to come.

ACCT112
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

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 many formulas and accounting methods to understand and memorize.

Questions are generally difficult, mechanical but repetitive. Focus on understanding and it will be much simpler subsequently.

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

- Projects: Project is very heavy and time-consuming due to the various components of the master budget. Having a decent proficiency in excel would be helpful.

- Finals: Finals is more manageable than Financial Accounting (ACCT111). The time given to complete the paper is alright. Manage your time wisely and it should be doable.

ACCT112
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

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

Pay attention in class as the professor will give hints regarding his style of testing; something not found within the textbook. Practise consistently and organise your notes well. Simply memorizing is not enough as having a keen understanding of the concepts is more important when applying what you have learnt.

Start on the project early as it is extremely time-consuming. Will be good to brush up on excel skills.

Time management is crucial. Even though it might not be as tight as FA, be strategic in your approach to the different questions.

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

Having a basic grasp of excel would have helped tremendously. Can be a lot easier if organisation of notes is good.

It is quite a different module from FA. While FA is more externally focused, MA is very much internal.

The questions tested in the Final Exam can differ a lot from those in the homework and practice papers.

ACCT221 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AIS)

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

This module requires students to gain a clear understanding of the concepts in order to be able to score well. An in-depth understanding of the system flow and processes is required in order to draw the diagrams and flowcharts, especially under time constraints. You have to visualize the flow and ensure that your work is precise and detailed. The more challenging topics would be REA models and the written section of the description of the control goals and plans for the control matrix.

- Projects: Has a tedious narrative to write. Need a lot of coordination to make the project flow. A lot of things to remember for control matrix, so prepare early and think of a way to remember which control measures fulfil what kind of accuracy and validity check.

- Finals: There are no standard answers 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. Be careful during finals, particularly for the drawing section of the flowcharts and DFDs.

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

Pre-reading and being prepared for class will be useful in better understanding the materials taught. Practice consistently and be sure to clarify doubts with the professor. The exercises can be found on e-learn with different narratives so that you can be exposed to the plausible scenarios.

Memorising is not the key to getting an A for AIS. It is about practicing consistently, understanding the concepts and applying them correctly after you have learnt them. If possible, have a chapter summary after every lesson and a list of control plans to familiarize yourself with.

ACCT221 ACCOUNTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AIS)

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

The project can be heavy and time-consuming so it would be useful to learn how to use Visio, a software program required for the project, to learn how to draw SFC, DFD and REA. There will be a lot of drawing involved, which is intensive and time consuming. Having a good understanding of companies' operations and business processes will be useful.

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

Majority of the students responded NIL. Some responded Taxation, Financial Reporting Analysis.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT223 TAXATION

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The module is rather content heavy and will involve a lot of readings (textbook, Income Tax Act, GST Act). There are a lot of concepts and tax laws to memorise. Students will also need to refresh their memory on the basic concepts of FA, MA and FRA.

There is a need to do consistent practices from what you have learned in class or else, it would be hard to learn how to apply the tax concepts and law correctly.

The concepts could be difficult to understand at first but you will be able to understand the reasoning behind it after practicing. Concepts are all fragmented and the difficult part would be integrating the various topics to answer the questions.

- Projects: The group project was rather difficult. Past year projects include changing the corporate tax rate in Singapore and revamping the CPF system, so some found it 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.

- Finals: Will be tough and keep in mind that time management is important to complete the paper. Make sure to understand the concepts clearly as there will not be enough time to constantly refer to the cheat sheet during Finals.

Take note: Only Tax Act is allowed for Taxation and Advanced Taxation.

ACCT223 TAXATION

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

Be consistent with your work and always consult the professor if you are unsure of the topic. You can find practice questions from the textbook or ACCA papers from the website.

Read the IRAS website to gain a better understanding of the terms used in Tax and the system in Singapore, particularly for the corporate and individual tax computation.

Prepare for class beforehand so that it would be easier to understand when the professor goes through them. 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.

Avoid heavy content modules if you plan to take Tax.

Tax requires a lot of practice. If you think you are prepared, think again. The more you practice, the better you will be. It can be daunting at the start but as you practice and familiarise yourself with the concept, it will get better.

ACCT223 TAXATION

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

There are 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 income tax act and financial reporting standards can be different, but you will still need to understand FRS in order to be able to excel in tax.

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. It is important to follow the order of computation to be able to do well.

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

Majority of the students responded Financial Reporting Analysis. Some responded Intermediate Financial Accounting or Accounting Thought and Governance.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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 FA. It requires a substantial level of heavy-content readings which is important in understanding the FRS (Financial Reporting Standards). Extra emphasis should be placed on challenging topics such as: Deferred Tax, Leases, Construction Contracts, Revenue Recognition and Employee Benefits.

- Projects: Project is time consuming and challenging, since it must be constantly updated with new standards. A steep jump from Financial Accounting.

- Finals: 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.

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

There is a steep increase in difficulty from Financial Accounting. Consistency is the key. Do your pre-readings and read the FRS as it will really help with the understanding of the principles.

Important to do constant practices and consult 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 than the practice papers.

ACCT224 FINANCIAL REPORTING ANALYSIS (FRA)

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. Having tax knowledge will be helpful for topic on deferred tax.

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

Majority of the students responded Tax.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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 SSA to practical audit work is the toughest. Theslides and textbook are insufficient.

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

- Finals: 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. Consult with the professor often to clarify any doubts that you have.

Revise the internal control topic from 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. If you do, you will know where each concept falls in the audit process and will be able to apply the concept to the case scenarios. Understand instead of memorising the concepts as the exams will be application based.

ACCT331
AUDIT AND ASSURANCE

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

The huge amount of pre-readings required from the module. The fact is that SSA serves as a useful guide and to also buy the textbook early. It would be better to take it with modules that you think you can score well in. Being familiar with the FRS and pre-reading the SSAs would aid you in grasping the audit concepts. An audit internship would also be useful in preparing you for this module.

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

Majority of the students responded NIL. Some responded Intermediate Financial Accounting or Advanced Financial Accounting

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT332 ACCOUNTING THOUGHT AND GOVERNANCE

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The module relates more on how accounting theory is formed and the rationale behind it. Abstract with certain terminologies that require getting used to. A rather content heavy module with slight calculations involved. A lot of readings are on research papers which are usually lengthy and tough to understand. Understanding the theory and underlying concepts for this module can be difficult.

- Projects: 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.

- Finals: Will usually test students on their opinions on certain research topic on accounting policies that has 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.

Be attentive in class as the professor will be able to explain the concepts in a simpler way that would be easier to understand. Practice makes perfect. Time management is important so start on the project early as it gives you more room to take flight.

ACCT332 ACCOUNTING THOUGHT AND GOVERNANCE

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

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

Finance and economics knowledge would be helpful so do familiarise yourself with them before the school term.

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

Majority of the students responded NIL. Some responded Advanced Financial Accounting and Advanced Taxation

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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 Financial Markets and Investments (FMI, previously known as FIIM). Concepts revolves around the accounting practices behind FMI module. Understand how answers are being derived instead of blindly memorising the method. Calculations for Journal Entries is very challenging.

Extra emphasis should be placed on challenging topics such as: Hedging and Foreign exchange.

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

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

Take FMI first and revise the topics learnt in FMI so to ensure better understanding 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 more than the concept taught in the homework.

Do your readings consistently and start on your cheat sheet early. Clarify any doubts as soon as possible as module workload is quite heavy.

ACCT334 INTERMEDIATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

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

Requires good accounting background. To take FMI before taking IFA or to at least take the 2 modules together concurrently and to revise FMI and FRA to have a better understanding of the concepts.

Heavy commitment to the module, 2 test which covers almost everything from the module.

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

Majority responded Taxation. Some responded Advanced Taxation, Audit and Assurance and Valuation.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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. The understanding of the interaction between the accounting entries and accounting standards.

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.

- Finals: It will be more challenging than any accounting core finals you have ever taken and tougher than the practices done in class, especially if exam is held online. Time management is key to score too.

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

Revise the topics for the accounting modules (FRA, IFA) that you have previously taken, especially 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 build up on the previous week's topic. Be prepared to spend alot of time for this module at the start. Plan your modules such that you will have time to spend most of your timestudying for it. Do not bid this module together with other high-commitment modules.

ACCT335 ADVANCED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

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 what you have experienced in SMU before. The amount of practices and revision required for this module. Read the textbook more as it can help a lot for your finals.

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

Majority responded Advanced Taxation. Some responded Valuation and Accounting Analytics Capstone.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT336 VALUATION

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

It is heavy on finance concepts. Requires a good foundation in finance if you want to score in this module. The project is very intensive too, requiring you to do valuation on a real-life company.

Understanding the 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.

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.

Professor's Comment: Valuation requires lots of practices in calculations. Determination and commitment are critical. Students should know Modigliani and Millar Proposition I & II from Finance and be fast and good in doing discounting without financial calculators as discounting in most cases are 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 wished you had known before taking this module?

A module that is very dependent on finance concepts. It would be good to read up on finance again before taking this module. Study IFA and FRA well. It is important to understand and know how to apply the different formulae for midterms and finals.

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

Some responded Intermediate Financial Accounting and Advanced Financial Accounting and Taxation.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

Professor's Comments: Students in the first and second years are NOT advised to take this module because of their limited exposure the other modules and work practices. Majority of students who took this module were final year students.

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.

- Project: The project requires you to handle a very large dataset and codes.

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 not rely on checklists and boxes to fulfil as assessment but look towards how their analysis can add value to the company they are analysing for.

- Finals: 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.

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.

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 language may be helpful, they can sometimes lead to confusion because R is different from other languages.

ACCT337 STATISTICAL PROGRAMMING

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

Statistical concepts, such as linear regression, and internal control concepts from 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 to the situation and knowing how to interpret the results from the code well.

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

Most responded NIL. Some responded Taxation, Forecasting and Forensic Analytics, and Accounting Analytics Capstone.

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

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

Professor's Comment: Ideally, Year 3 Semester 1 or 2 (before a planned overseas exchange term). Definitely take it before doing Accounting Analytics Capstone and the Analytics Application modules requiring R.

COR3302 ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOUNTING

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The content covered in this module is easy to understand, but application of it is difficult, stemming from formulating and organising a persuasive argument from frameworks and terminology covered in class. Requires students to be constantly updated with the pre-readings, relevant news and current affair as it may be discussed in class about the ethical issues surfaced. It is often difficult to identify clearly the ethical dilemma of the situation and how it arose from.

- Projects: Breadth of project can be very wide, which boils down to the ability to create an argumentative and persuasivestandpoint. Extra emphasis should be placed on preparing for the Q&A of project.

- Finals: Difficult to structure commonsensical thoughts on ethics into procedural framework-based answers. Important to have a good understanding of ethical framework.

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. Participation 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. Plan arguments using frameworks before diving into the essay, no right or wrong answers. Marking is based on the argument that you provide.

COR3302 ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOUNTING

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

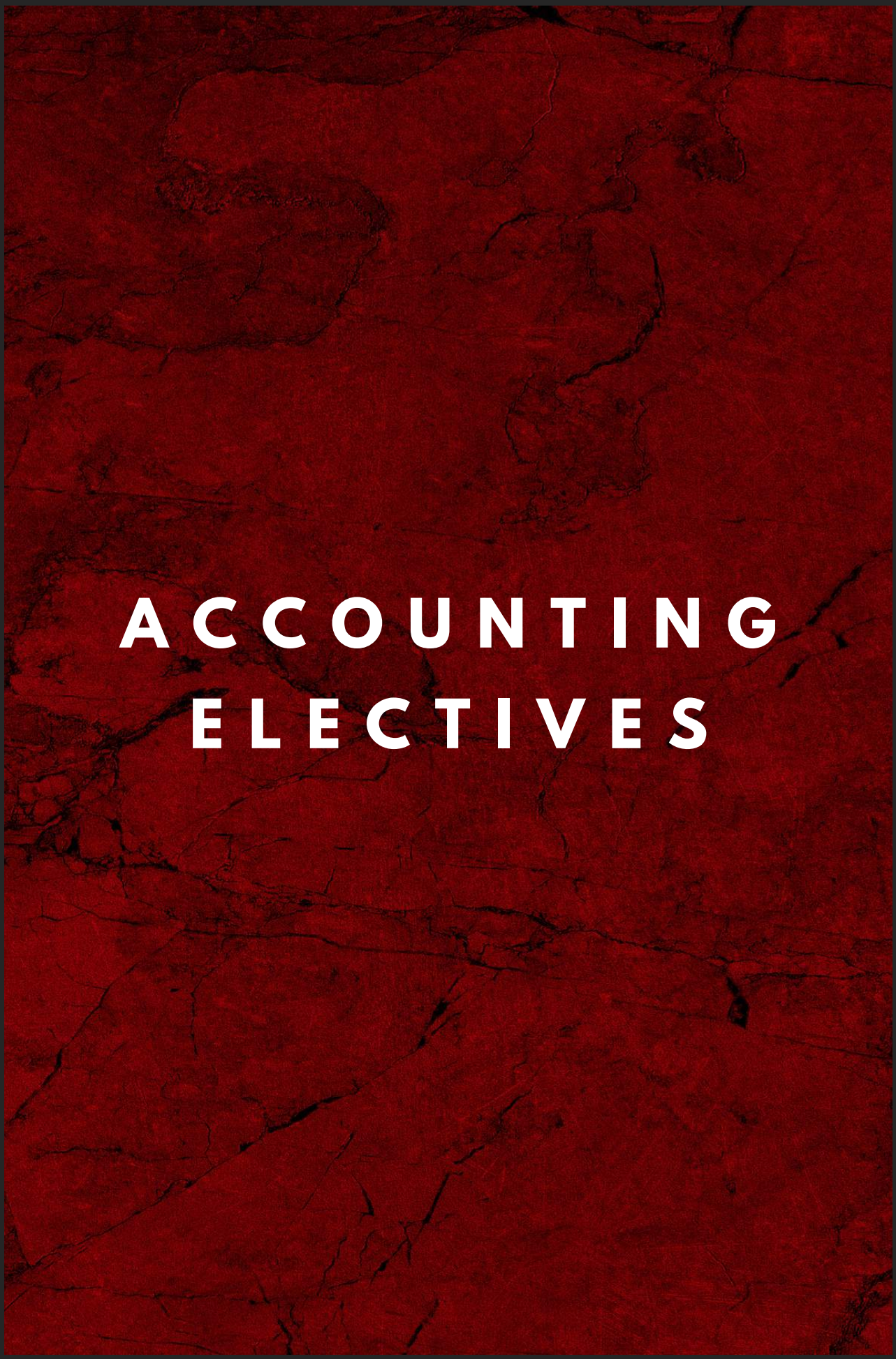
Could be paired with tougher mods as the module is quite easy if you pay attention in class and be consistent in with your pre-readings and practices.

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

Majority of the students responded NIL. Some responded FRA, Tax or AIS.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2


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 focusses on how to create value for different stakeholders of acompany 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.

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

Take Strategy module before attempting this module. It will help build a firmer foundation for you to begin this module. Familiarise yourself with basic statistics and be prepared to read up more on finance and economicsknowledge.

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.

ACCT401 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

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

It is not a quantitative module and taking strategy before this module will help in better understanding the concepts. Start early for your project as it is the most time-consuming part of the course. It is a valuable module for students interested in investing.

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

Majority responded NIL. Some responded Advanced Financial Accounting, Advanced Taxation and Audit and Assurance.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

Professor's Comment: Students in the first and second years are NOT advised to take this module because of their limited exposure 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 and is not just confined to tax computations. It includes tax advisory situations as well. Topics that are tough includes double tax agreement, GST, tax incentives and overseas income. There is a slight overlap with ACCT223 Taxation, 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.

- Projects: Research intensive due to it being rather open ended.

- Finals: 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 Taxation 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. It is important to read up from various websites such as IRAS and ITA.

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

Majority responded Advanced Financial Accounting. Some responded Audit and Assurance and Strategic Management Accounting.

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

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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 requires 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 inexams.

Refresh your Finance101 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.

ACCT407 CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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.

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

Majority responded NIL. Some responded Intermediate Financial Accounting.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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 is no hard rules. Precision of language is the key to scoring.

- Projects: Workload for 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 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.

ACCT409 AUDITING FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

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.

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

Majority responded NIL. Some responded Internal Audit or Governance and Risk Management.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT410
INTERNAL AUDIT (SMU-X)

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. Project and assignments are challenging.

Interaction with industry professionals during the module.

They are willing to share much of what their company does and it is the best time to ask them questions especially if you are interested in doing internal audit in the future.

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 are not a lot of research and insights that can be searched on the internet.

ACCT410
INTERNAL AUDIT (SMU-X)

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 the IA concepts. Read the news constantly to see how it ties in with Internal auditing as the module is very proactive.

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 professor will teach you about the content to be learnt but rather, professional in various industry 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 as less workload toward the end of the semester.

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

Majority responded NIL.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT414 ACCOUNTING ANALYTICS CAPSTONE (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. 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.

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.

ACCT414 ACCOUNTING ANALYTICS CAPSTONE (SMU-X)

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

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

Bid with a group which 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 DMV and Statistical Programming before taking this module.

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

Majority responded Internal Audit, Advanced Taxation, Advanced Financial Accounting and Audit Analytics.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT417
INSOLVENCY & 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 like 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.

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

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

The Data Modelling Segment of the module is the most challenging part. Requires student to learn how to use a visualisation software (Tableau) from scratch, learn & understand various analytics techniques, and then applying them to solve accounting problems. Have to be strong in mathematical equations which plays a significant part of the modelling segment.

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, due to the fast pace. Revising statistics, taking Spreadsheet Modelling before this mod, or having some Tableau basics for the project will help as well.

ACCT418 DATA MODELLING AND VISUALISATION

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. Consulting the professor earlier to clarify project's expectation so as to not go off track. Project takes up substantial amount of time.

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

Majority responded NIL. Some responded Statistical Programming, Advanced Financial Accounting or Advanced Taxation.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT420 FORECASTING AND FORENSIC ANALYTICS

What is the most difficult thing about this module?

Content is more advanced than the pre-requisite Statistical Programming, thus command of R Programming must be of a decent level.

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

Course mixes theory and code together, which can be very confusing. Understanding a broad overview of the course helps to keep track of progress.

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

Project is coding-intensive, and prof encourages using models outside what is taught in class. As such self-learning of outside-class content is important.

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

Some responded Advanced Financial Accounting and Audit Analytics.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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.

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 essential as some programming essential to the course 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 do well are likely to be those who have a keen interest in financial markets and statistical modelling, and who enjoy hands-on and unstructured explanatory learning.

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

Some responded Statistical Programming or Forecasting and Forensic Analytics.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

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. Necessary to consult profs in studying for this module.

Interaction with industry professionals during the module.

Not much interaction, other than when first meeting them, and during the presentations when they asked us questions.

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.

ACCT423 AUDIT ANALYTICS (SMU-X)

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

Group mates are preassigned for group projects.

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

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

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

Some responded Accounting Analytics Capstone or Auditing Information Systems.

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

Y1S2	Y2S1	Y2S2	Y3S1	Y3S2	Y4S1	Y4S2

ACCT424 AUDITING INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SMU-X)

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 examines IT systems and environment used to support the business processes common across various industries. The course helps to recognize how IT affects flows of business transactions, identify relevant technology elements, and assess risks arising from IT elements. Topics in the course will include the understanding, identifying and testing relevant to GITC (General IT Controls) and evaluate deficiencies in GITCs and assess the impact of GITC deficiencies on the audit. Moreover, this course will also touch upon ways in which IT audit report documentation is done and audit observations are assessed, handled and addressed. Lastly the course will also give an overview of regulatory guidelines in place for technology risk management, outsourcing risk and business continuity management stipulated by Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). The course will use class activities, case study, real world examples and group discussions to increase the practicality of the knowledge content. Course is a perfect blend for individuals who are willing to learn about the IT elements considered in audit and compliance assessments.

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-KMPG 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.

NON-ACCOUNTING OPTIONS/ ELECTIVES

IS105 BUSINESS DATA MANAGEMENT

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 cover the fundamentals of relational database theory, important data management concepts such as data modelling, database design, database implementation and searches in un-structured 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 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 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 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.

IS452 BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

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 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.

IS453
FINANCIAL ANALYTICS

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

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 projects and discussion. This closely emulates many bank's analytics environment. To ensure students have the required level of knowledge and skills, pre-requisites 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 CYBERSECURITY

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 17TH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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