

Penn State Smeal MBA

Corporate Connections. Career Results.



Please read this message about MBA accounting class preparation carefully.

Historically, MBA students with less preparation struggle with financial accounting, which must be scheduled early in the program as many other courses build on financial statement literacy and accounting principles. To prepare you and aid your transition back to the classroom, you have been enrolled in a **mandatory** financial accounting preparatory course. This course has been selected and approved by our accounting faculty as necessary pre-work for your Financial Accounting course (BA 511).

The attached ALEKS information will guide you to complete the course. The modules and assessment must be completed prior to Orientation, **by August 8th**. You can take the course at your own pace during the summer, expecting it to take about 12-15 hours to complete.

Don't be intimidated by the process, the preparatory course gets very good reviews from our faculty. Moreover, staff members with no accounting background have been able to complete the modules and understand the material. If you take your time and take notes as you go along, you won't have any trouble.

The letter below from your accounting instructor, Dr. Dan Givoly provides important information. Please read the entire message.

Deliverable Reminders:

- Summer Smart Start (resume and PCS) – due to Career Services by **today, 6/13/16**
- Incoming Student Survey & Photo – due to Student Services by **Wednesday, 6/15/16**
- ALEKS (Pre-Term Accounting modules and assessment) – due by 8/8/16

A Note From Career Services:

Please remember to send your PCS and resume to Brenda Fabian by the end of the day on **June 13th**. If you need help getting started, you are welcome to use VMock as a resource to help enhance and format your resume. You should have received an invitation from VMock on 6/9. When updating your LinkedIn profile, be

sure to indicate when your degree is “expected” or “anticipated.” An example is provided for you here: Penn State Smeal College of Business, Master of Business Administration, Expected May 2018

Regards,
Ann & Chelsea
The MBA Student Services Team

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Greetings!

Welcome to the MBA Program! We’re delighted to have you on board as you embark on what I am sure will be a very rewarding journey over the next couple of years. Indeed, this is a time when you’ll be broadening your knowledge, expanding your network and re-envisioning your future.

As the instructor of Financial Accounting, BA511, I am writing to tell you a little bit about the course, the preterm Preparatory Module and the textbook. Financial Accounting is one of the first courses in the MBA program. Its main purpose is to familiarize you with the main financial statements that companies produce so that you, as a manager or an investor, are able to intelligently analyze these statements and draw conclusions about the businesses’ performance, prospects and risk.

While the focus of the course is on the analysis of the financial statements, a prerequisite for effective analysis is having a basic understanding of how the financial statements are prepared. The process of recording the many business transactions that occur daily, classifying them and summarizing them in a set of financial statements is fairly technical. In order not to spend too much of our class time on the mechanics of preparing the statements, I have assigned a preparatory module that you will need to complete before the start of the accounting course.

Course Preparatory Module

The preparatory module for the Financial Accounting course is an online package called ALEKS. This module explains basic information and provides examples of the mechanics of preparing the financial statements. The material covered in this module corresponds to the first three chapters in the textbook of our course, *Introduction to Financial Accounting* by Libby, Libby and Short. While ALEKS is intended to provide a stand-alone learning experience, I strongly recommend that you read the first three chapters of the textbook while

completing the ALEKS module. In the past, students who did this felt that the textbook reinforced and strengthen their learning experience.

Professor Ed Babcock, who introduced ALEKS to the Masters in Accounting Program here at Smeal has composed some background documents on ALEKS which are being sent to you so that you can begin your preparatory work. I believe that you'll find these helpful.

If you encounter any technical difficulties while working with the software package, please contact the ALEKS Customer Care team.

You must complete the ALEKS module and complete its final assessment test by August 8, 2016. If you do poorly on the assessment, you will be assigned some additional work to ensure that your level of understanding is on par with that of the rest of the class.

Course Textbook

The textbook for the course is *Financial Accounting* by Libby, Libby, and Hodge, 9th edition, McGraw-Hill.

The publisher also provides our course with a customized version of the textbook. This version, in soft cover, contains only the content covered in BA 511 and is considerably less expensive than the full version. The customized version will be available soon at the campus bookstore.

Purchasing either version of the full textbook or the shorter version will provide you with access to CONNECT, an on-line package that supplements the textbook and provides additional learning activities, practice problems and templates that are helpful in completing the homework assignments.

There is also an international edition of the textbook. Please be aware that while the chapter content of the domestic and international editions is very similar, the problems, exercises, cases and other material provided at the end of each chapter (from which most of the homework assignments are taken) is different.

Course Site Activation

I plan to activate the course site in early August and will notify you when I do so. Once the course site is activated you will have access to the course syllabus, lecture notes, cases, and background readings.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you in person in August. Have an enjoyable and productive summer!

Best regards,

Dan Givoly