

Penn State Smeal MBA

Corporate Connections. Career Results.



Please read the following 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 will be 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).

In about two weeks, you will receive enrollment notification and registration information so that you can complete the course prior to the start of classes. You can take the course at your own pace during July and August, 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, I have no financial practice since taking an undergraduate accounting course at night school back in 1992, and I was able to complete the modules and mostly understand the material. If you take your time and take notes as you go along, you won't have any trouble.

The following letter from your accounting instructor, Dr. Dan Givoly provides some amplifying information.

Erik

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 and the preterm Preparatory Module. 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.

Professor Ed Babcock, who introduced ALEKS to the Masters in Accounting Program here at Smeal has composed some background documents on ALEKS which will be sent to you in a few weeks 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 15, 2015. If you do poorly on this test, you will be assigned some make-up work early in Fall Semester to ensure that your level of understanding is on par with that of the rest of the class.

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

Best regards,

Dan Givoly