



**Arab Open University
Faculty of Business Studies**

Master of Accounting

Programme Specification

August

2017

AOU Master of Accounting programme Specification

1. Overview/ factual information

Program/award title(s)	Master of Accounting
Teaching Institution	Arab Open University - AOU
Program start date	September 2017
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	Full Time - 2 years Part Time 4 years
Accreditation	Local Ministries of Higher Education

2. Programme aims and objectives

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in student module guide(s) and the students' handbook.

The Master in Accounting programme offers an advanced qualification useful to candidates wishing to pursue Academic and/or professional careers in Accounting. This programme is designed to provide students with the fundamental concepts underlying the practice of Accounting with a view in order to develop students' understanding of the central issues, with an emphasis on the role of accounting systems in the measurement and assessment of organizational performance. The programme reflects the general educational aims of the Faculty of Business Studies, according to which all programmes of study enable students to become competent and reflective practitioners in their chosen field, promote critical and evaluative thinking, and develop an understanding of the contemporary business environment.

Educational aims and objectives

The aims of the Programme are to:

- Provide Student with a comprehensive knowledge and appreciation of significant contemporary issues in different fields of accounting.
- Provide Student with a preparation for the demands of examinations required from professional bodies (e.g. AICPA, IMA-CMA)
- Equip student to pursue a career in accounting and finance.
- Appropriate exemptions from professional accountancy and finance examinations.
- A strong international and interdisciplinary orientation, covering conceptual

and technical developments of major contemporary significance.

- Provide Student with research training in accounting enabling them to continue on to doctoral work should they so choose.

Master of Accounting programme is designed to provide the opportunity to:

- The programme provides opportunities for entry into, or progression in, careers in accounting as well as a platform for study at doctoral level.
- Acquire skills in different accounting fields for the effective implementation of policy within financial and management accounting context.
- Develop analytical and problem solving skills for decision making in accounting issues and problems.
- Bridge the gap between theory and practice using more professional oriented texts and examinations.
- Increasing range of work opportunities (e. g. in public accounting, business and industry (corporate accounting), government, not-for-profit, and education).
- Focus on practical side and helping students prepare for accounting professional certificates (e. g. CMA, CPA, JCPA, IFRS cert.)
- Enhance oral and written communication, presentation, and critical thinking.

3. Programme Outcomes

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p>On successful completion of this programme student will be able to:</p> <p>A1: demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding of the variety of accounting contexts;</p> <p>A2: demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the most widely used techniques and approaches of accounting;</p> <p>A3: demonstrate a variety of models, techniques and methods to solve practical problems arising in accounting;</p> <p>A4: demonstrate a core knowledge base including the essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relevant to the chosen area of specialisation.</p>	<p>Student will gain an understanding of theoretical ideas and technical methods through a combination of lectures, discussion classes, individual and group practical exercises, case studies and directed reading. Course content is kept up to date as members of teaching staff maintain a range of links with practice, external organisations, and the programme content is regularly reviewed and updated.</p> <p>A range of formative and summative assessment exercises are designed to enable student to demonstrate and apply the required knowledge and understanding. This includes formal written examinations, class tests, seminar contributions, essays work, and individual and group project work.</p>

3B. Cognitive skills

Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p>At the end of the programme, students should be able to demonstrate:</p> <p>B1: critically assess and originality in tackling and solving problems</p> <p>B2: evaluate company accounts, audit reports and the uses to which these are put;</p> <p>B3: think analytically, reflectively, creatively and logically, drawing on useful approaches developed in a range of cognate disciplines, including financial and management accounting, corporate governance, corporate social accountability, performance management, and decision analysis.</p> <p>B4: evaluate and interpret information, and engage in problem solving, thereby demonstrating a capacity to think clearly and systematically about a range of contemporary issues in accounting.</p> <p>B5: exercise relevant personal and interactive skills.</p>	<p>Cognitive skills are delivered through a mixture of lectures, discussion, individual and group practical exercises, case studies, reading, and assessed coursework.</p> <p>A range of formative and summative assessment exercises are designed to enable student to demonstrate and apply the required knowledge and understanding. This includes formal written examinations, class tests, essays, and individual and group project work.</p>

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p>Having successfully completed this programme student will be able to:</p> <p>C1: select and apply appropriate techniques to solve practical problems in organisations;</p> <p>C2: demonstrate self-direction and some originality in tackling and solving problems</p> <p>C3: act autonomously in planning and implementing accounting tasks</p> <p>C4: Prepare and analyse company financial accounts and audit reports;</p>	<p>Practical and professional skills are delivered through a mixture of lectures, discussion, individual and group practical exercises, case studies, reading, and assessed coursework.</p> <p>A range of formative and summative assessment exercises are designed to enable student to demonstrate and apply the required knowledge and understanding. This includes formal written examinations, class tests, essays, and individual and group project work.</p>

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p>At the end of the programme, students should be able to demonstrate:</p> <p>D1: appropriate communication skills such as ability to present quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in an appropriate form;</p>	<p>Key/transferable skills are delivered through a mixture of lectures, discussion, individual and group practical exercises, case studies, , reading, and assessed coursework.</p> <p>A range of formative and summative assessment exercises are designed to enable student to demonstrate and apply the required knowledge and understanding. This</p>

3D. Key/transferable skills

D2: ability to work in groups and other appropriate inter-personal skills, including oral and written presentation skills.

D3: plan, organize, and prioritize their time

D4: Critically review evidence including its reliability, validity and significance;

D5: Manage resources and time effectively in order to achieve intended goals;

D6: Learn effectively for the purpose of continuing professional development.

includes formal written examinations, class tests, essays work, and individual and group project work.

4. Programme Structure

Study Plan

A. Comprehensive Track		B. Thesis Track	
Course Type	Credit Hours	Course Type	Credit Hours
Mandatory Courses	24	Mandatory Courses	18
Elective Courses	9	Elective Courses	6
Comprehensive	0	Thesis	9
Total	33	Total	33

A. Master Program in Accounting: Comprehensive Track

1. Mandatory requirements (24 Credit Hours): Students should successfully take the courses listed as follows; and successfully take the comprehensive after they finish all other requirements

Serial No.	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Prerequisite
1	ACC610	Advanced Management Accounting	3	-
2	ACC620	Advanced Cost Accounting	3	-
3	ACC630	Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting	3	-
4	ACC640	Advanced Topics in Accounting	3	-
5	ACC650	International Accounting Standards / IFRS	3	-
6	ACC660	Auditing and Attestation	3	-
7	ACT670	Advanced Financial and Risk Management	3	-
8	ACC680	Internal control and Professional Ethics	3	-
9	ACC690	Comprehensive Exam	0	33 Credit Hours
Total			24	

2. Elective requirements (9 Credit Hours): Students should successfully take three courses to be chosen from the table below

Serial No.	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Prerequisite
1	ACC635	Financial and Accounting Analysis	3	-
2	ACC645	Research Methodologies in accounting	3	-

Study Plan

3	ACC655	Accounting Information Systems	3	-
4	ACC665	Business Environment and Concepts	3	-
5	ACC675	Tax, Business Law and Regulation	3	-
Total			9	

B. Master Program in Accounting – Thesis Track

1. Mandatory requirements (18 Credit Hours): Students should successfully take the courses listed as follows:

Serial No.	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Prerequisite
1	ACC610	Advanced Management Accounting	3	-
2	ACC620	Advanced Cost Accounting	3	-
3	ACC630	Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting	3	-
4	ACC650	International Accounting Standards / IFRS	3	-
5	ACC645	Research Methodologies in accounting	3	-
6	ACC660	Auditing and Attestation	3	-
Total			18	

2. Elective requirements (6 Credit Hours): Students should successfully take two courses to be chosen from the table below

Serial No.	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Prerequisite
1	ACC635	Financial and Accounting Analysis	3	-
2	ACC640	Advanced Topics in Accounting	3	-
3	ACC655	Accounting Information Systems	3	-
4	ACC665	Business Environment and Concepts	3	-
5	ACT670	Advanced Financial and Risk Management	3	-
6	ACC675	Tax, Business Law and Regulation	3	-
7	ACC680	Internal control and Professional Ethics	3	-
Total			6	

3. Research Project (9 Credit Hours)

5. Assessment Regulations

The final mark of each course shall be calculated, and be entered in letters and their equivalent points as follows:

Generic Assessment Criteria

Indicative Grade	% Marks	Characteristics	
A	90 and above	<p>High standard of critical analysis using appropriate conceptual frameworks</p> <p>Excellent understanding and exposition of relevant issues</p> <p>Clearly structured and logically developed arguments</p> <p>Good awareness of nuances and complexities</p> <p>Substantial evidence of well-executed independent research</p> <p>Very good evaluation and synthesis of source material</p> <p>Very good use of relevant data and examples, all properly referenced</p>	<p>Outstanding</p> <p>Student meets all requirements of LOs. The student demonstrates an excellent grasp of the subject knowledge including critical thinking and consistently adheres to the conventions of writing. The student demonstrates outstanding ability in use of relevant ideas / facts / theories / concepts / models / perspectives with consistency and precision of breadth and depth. The student work is strikingly insightful with evidence of originality and integration of information from sources with sound judgment and professional standards of writing with further scope for research.</p>
B+	86-89	<p>Very good standard of critical analysis using appropriate conceptual frameworks</p> <p>Clear awareness and exposition of relevant issues</p> <p>Clearly structured and logically developed argument</p> <p>Awareness of concepts and complexities</p> <p>Evidence of independent research</p> <p>Good evaluation and synthesis of source material</p>	<p>Very Good</p> <p>Student meets all requirements of LOs. The student demonstrates a very good grasp of the subject knowledge and consistently adheres to the conventions of writing. The student demonstrates high ability in use of relevant ideas / facts / theories / concepts / models / perspectives with consistency and precision of breadth and depth. The students work is insightful with evidence of originality to a great extent and integration of information from sources with</p>

		Good use of relevant data and examples, all properly referenced	sound judgment and professional standards of writing.
B	75-85	Uses appropriate conceptual frameworks Attempts analysis but includes some errors and/or omissions Shows awareness of issues but no more than to be expected from attendance at classes Arguments reasonably clear but underdeveloped Insufficient evaluation of source material Some good use of relevant data and examples, but incompletely referenced Insufficient evidence of independent research	
C+ Probation	70-74	Adequate understanding of appropriate conceptual frameworks Answer too descriptive and/or any attempt at analysis is superficial, containing errors and/or omissions Shows limited awareness of issues but also some confusion Arguments not particularly clear Limited evidence of independent research and reliance on a superficial repeat of class notes Relatively superficial use of relevant data, sources and examples and poorly	Good Student almost all requirements of LOs. The student demonstrates an sound grasp of the subject knowledge and adheres to the conventions of writing. The student demonstrates ability in use of relevant ideas / facts / theories / concepts / models / perspectives with consistency and precision of breadth and depth. The student work is has fair evidence of originality and integration of information from sources with judgment and appropriate standards of writing.

		referenced	
C	65-69	Shows acquaintance with and understanding of key concepts and issues from a range of sources; ideas synthesized and related to the topic. Ideas organized and grouped into a coherent argument; use of examples / detail / quotations / references / experience to support argument; some critical analysis of ideas/evidence; limited appraisal of implications.	
D	60-64	Shows general understanding of key concepts and issues. Ideas organized and grouped into a coherent argument; use of examples / experience to support argument; limited appraisal of implications.	Satisfactory Student fairly meets requirements of LOs. The student demonstrates fair level of knowledge but with weak competency in presenting the argument. Adheres to broad standards of writing and lacks in presentation of knowledge in depth and breadth.
F	Below 60	Unsatisfactory Student fails to meet the LOs. The student demonstrates patchy overall knowledge of the subject. Lacks skills in presenting argument, contains inaccuracies with very little evidence of independent thought.	

This marking scheme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Standards Benchmark, Higher Education National Framework, and AOU assessment bylaws and policies.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
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A	4.0
B+	3.5
B	3.0
C+	2.5
C	2.0
D	1.5
F	0.0

The cumulative average shall be calculated in points with the equivalent ratings given as follows:

Average in points	Rating
3.67 - 4.00	Excellent
3.00 - 3.66	Very good
2.50 - 2.99	Good
Less than 2.50	Poor

6. Curriculum map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (✓) particular programme learning outcomes.

Course Number	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
ACC610	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
ACC620	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
ACC630	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACC640	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACC650	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
ACC660	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACT670	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
ACC680	✓			✓			✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACC635		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	
ACC645				✓				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACC655	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
ACC665	✓			✓			✓		✓					✓			✓	✓	✓
ACC675	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓