

Course Adjustment

Division of Business

Self-Study 2021-2022

Note: this section contains information regarding changes made by instructors in their classes based on observations and results of program assessment during the self-study year.

ACCT-3103 Intermediate Accounting I

Students now have access to the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC). The access arranged for the students will enable them to research the ASC and to keep current on all accounting standards updates as they happen. In addition, the access will enable students to research the Governmental Accounting Standards and keep up to date on changes in those standards.

Students will use these research capabilities in classes such as Intermediate Accounting, Governmental/Not for Profit Accounting and Current Topics in Accounting. This will be invaluable to students in their coursework and in their preparation for their careers in accounting.

ACCT-3153 Cost Accounting

Exams were removed from the course and replaced them with case studies. In Fall 2020, two exams and one case study were given. Starting in Fall 2021, five case studies and a final class review, highlighting the topics in the case studies, during the final exam period were given. The change is being made to better prepare students for the types of analytics that are now being tested on the CPA exam. Also, employers in the accounting area are expecting students have more exposure to data analytics than in the past.

GBUS-3753 Business Research

DOB Program Analysis procedures have been undergoing revisions since Summer 2021. Part of that revision is to insert a process by which we as faculty, can better identify, report (and correct), weaknesses in our program as identified by stakeholders. As part of our “new” Program Assessment process, everyone will identify several weaknesses in their courses (as noted by stakeholders). Ideally, these weaknesses will be noted at the beginning of the semester, so that the instructor can make changes to address them. Then, at the end of the semester/year, the instructor can/will report on what changes were made. Over time, these improvements will be recognized by stakeholder. Ideally, these improvements will ultimately show up in improved outbound scores. This is an attempt at formalizing a closing the loop or continuous improvement type of process. A prototype of the new process will be implemented in Business Research.

GBUS-3793 Making Informed Decisions

Making Informed Decisions was established as an elective course for the Business program in Spring 2022. The course had previously been offered as a 4480 Seminar in the summer. The course can be used to meet graduation requirements in all Business minors. The course was added as a result of faculty observations of students. Students in the division lack critical thinking and decision-making skills. The course is designed to help students develop these skills and become more competent business professionals/leaders. There has been discussion in the past of adding the course to the Foundation Core.

GBUS-3953 Business, Society and Government

Several years ago, in response to input from graduating seniors, students in GBUS 3953 Business, Society & Government started making stockholder presentations before a small panel of faculty members who acted as stockholders. The faculty members would listen to the presentations and then question the students. These presentations occurred on a Saturday late in the semester. All the students and faculty members spent several hours in an Alva classroom for these presentations.

The experience format changed in Spring 2021. Instead of stockholder presentation, each simulation team will face the board of directors (composed of faculty members and/or invited guests) in a Zoom session. Each team will schedule their board meeting for some time between November 11 and November 23. Faculty discussed the new format during the Summer 2021 after the Spring 2021 trial-run. Faculty agreed to continue with the new strategy in Fall 2021.

MGMT-3103 Management Controls

Excel simulation assignments were added in Management Controls, so students have to complete cost accounting practices throughout the semester. The simulations help to improve student knowledge of Excel and Accounting topics. MGMT-3103 Management Controls and ACCT-3153 Cost Accounting cannot both be taken for credit to meet graduation, major or minor requirements.

MGMT-4433 Business Policy

For many years, students in Business Policy had a Friday afternoon/evening rehearsal for the final presentations on Saturday. That rehearsal greatly improved performance for the final presentations. Presentations were stopped as a result of COVID-19. These rehearsals were reimplemented in Fall 2021.

Guidelines for rehearsal:

1. An informal practice run for the final delivery. Conversation between faculty and students have been informal and very light-hearted. This helps to remove the jitters.
2. Constructive feedback on mechanics, technical components, flow of presentation, etc. on visuals or oral comments. Faculty will have no documents to look at or review beforehand.
3. Answer any questions for techniques or procedures, clarity, verbiage, etc. nothing on content, or meaning of major terminology, as that is their final presentation.
4. One team at a time, starts promptly on the half-hour and ends when team is ready or at 25 minutes past the hour.

MIS-3413 Management Information Systems

Originally, MIS topics covered were intermediate levels of Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. The instructor now teaches advanced Excel as part of the course. Employer feedback revealed graduates lack Excel skills. Graduates had very basic Excel skills at best when starting jobs. Currently, the instructor teaches advanced excel and how they are applicable to principles of information systems. Students spend 16 weeks working in Excel.