



BUAD 285b – Managerial Accounting

Course Syllabus

Fall Semester 2014

Section – 14521; Location – HOH422

Class Sessions – M & W 10:00 am to 11:50 am

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**Office Hours: M & W: 12:00 – 12:30 pm; 6:00 – 7:00 pm; and
by appointment**

Course Description

This is a second accounting course for undergraduate students whose majors require: understanding the impacts business transactions have on organizations; knowledge of basic accounting principles and techniques; and the ability to leverage the variety of information the accounting discipline provides managers, owners and other stakeholders. The primary focus of the course is the development, presentation and understanding of accounting information useful for managers when analyzing results and supporting decisions related to: product costing, overhead application, budgeting and planning, and management performance.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Distinguish between traditional job costing and activity-based costing methodologies by applying both techniques to business situations and evaluating the results. *(Marshall Learning Goal 3)*
- Analyze and identify cost information that is relevant for decision makers by recognizing and applying the relevant elements in a variety of decision making scenarios likely to face professional managers. *(Marshall Learning Goal 3)*
- Analyze and demonstrate how strategic planning and budgeting enhances an organization's ability to respond to economic changes by preparing elements of the master budget and a flexible budget. *(Marshall Learning Goals 1& 3)*
- Describe and demonstrate appropriate control and performance evaluation metrics in a multi-product, hierarchical organization by analyzing overall and segment performance using rate-of-return, residual income, and non-financial measures. *(Marshall Learning Goals 1& 3)*

To achieve these learning objectives, a combination of background reading, interactive discussion / lecture and practice problems will be utilized. Please note the most important word in the sentence above is "interactive." The reason is that research on learning indicates it is very difficult to gain anything more than a superficial understanding of material without practice and feedback. Therefore, you should expect our class sessions to incorporate a substantial amount of both.

To demonstrate your achievement of the learning objectives stated above: 1) you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge by individually working problems during quizzes and exams; and 2) you may be asked to complete in class group assignments on an ad hoc basis at the professor's discretion.

Required Materials

The following book is available in the bookstore and was used in BUAD 285a last semester.

- Garrison, R.H., Noreen, E.W., & Brewer, P.C., (2012). *Managerial Accounting, 14th Ed.* New York: McGraw-Hill (978-0-07-811100-6)

If you do not have the book from last semester, feel free to purchase the book online as this can result in substantial cost savings. However, if you choose to purchase the books online, please be aware that you are responsible for making alternative arrangements for completing all readings and advance preparation until the books arrive.

Prerequisites and Recommended Preparation

Generally, the prerequisite for this course is BUAD 285a. However, if you are taking this class during the last half of the semester and are earning a passing grade in BUAD 285a, then BUAD 285a will be treated as a corequisite for this course.

In addition, regular reading of a general business periodical or newspaper's financial section will aid in your business education. The Wall Street Journal can be purchased at a discounted student rate at www.wsjstudent.com.

Although not required, you will find it helpful to bring a calculator to class to work discussion problems and in class assignments. For exams, only school provided calculators will be allowed.

Course Notes

Distributed materials and other class information will be available through your Blackboard account. Although not a required / formal part of the class, additional materials can be found on the McGraw-Hill Connect Plus website if you purchased the course pack through the bookstore. To access the materials, please feel free to go to <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/285b-fall-2014> and click on "LS LEARNSMART" link or the "Library" tab after registration.

Grading Policies

Your grade in this class will be determined by your relative performance on three exams, the highest two scores from three quizzes, in-class exercises, and a team presentation. The total class score will be weighted as follows:

	Points	Weight	
Exam I	100	40%	(Individual)
Final Exam	100	40%	(Individual)
Highest of Two Quizzes	20	5%	(Individual)
In-class Exercises	TBD	5%	(Group)
Team Assignment	10	10%	(Group)

After each student's weighted total points are determined for the semester, letter grades will be assigned on a curve according to Marshall School of Business grading guidelines.

Final grades represent how you perform in the class relative to other students. Your grade will not be based on a mandated target, but on your performance. Historically, the average grade for this class is about a 3.0 (i.e., a "B"). Three items are considered when assigning final grades:

1. Your score for each of the items above weighted by the appropriate factor and summed.
2. Your overall percentage score for the course.
3. Your ranking among all students in the course(s) taught by your instructor during the current semester.

The grade of "W" is allowed only if a student withdraws after the third week but before the end of the twelfth week of the semester (or after the first week but before the middle of the sixth week for 'quarter' classes). The grade of incomplete (IN) can be assigned only if there is work outstanding

due to a documented illness or unforeseen emergency occurring after the 12th week of the semester (or the middle of the sixth week for 'quarter' classes) that prevents the student from completing the semester. An "emergency" is defined as a serious documented illness, or an unforeseen situation that is beyond the student's control, that prevents a student from completing the semester. Prior to the 12th week (or middle of the sixth week for 'quarter' classes), the student still has the option of dropping the class. Arrangements for completing an IN must be initiated by the student and agreed to by the instructor prior to the final examination. All work required to replace the IN with a final grade must be completed within one calendar year from the date the IN was assigned. If the student does not complete the work within the year, the IN will automatically be converted to a grade of F.

Assignments and Grading Detail

Expectations regarding your performance on exams, quizzes, in-class exercises and the team assignment are as follows:

Exams

Exams may include: multiple-choice questions, short answer / brief essay questions, exercises, and problems. Preparing for exams involves dedication and ends only when you can: 1) identify the relevant issues in a given business situation; 2) analyze the data and transform it into information to be used in a comprehensive answer; and 3) explain what you did using techniques demonstrated in class. The best bet for success involves a number of steps. First, is making sure you do the advanced preparation for each class session. Second is reworking problems done in class and trying other / additional problems. Third is making sure you ask questions in a real-time manner to solidify your understanding of the material as we go, rather than trying to 'get it' right before an exam. Remember, on exams you will be required to perform all work (e.g., problem setup, solution generation, and answer presentation) on your own.

The exam dates for this fall are as follows:

Exam I	Wednesday	September 17 th
Final exam	Wednesday	October 15 th

During the semester, each exam will be returned no more than one week after it has been given. After each test is returned there is a one-week reflection period and then you will have one week to discuss your grade. After this time, grades on tests become final. All other grades are final once given.

The Leventhal School of Accounting policy is exams should not be missed unless there is a very serious emergency AND it can be properly documented. Also, to the extent possible, you must inform the instructor of the emergency prior to the exam (it is understood this is not always possible). If you miss an exam for something other than a serious emergency and / or you cannot provide documentation, you will receive a zero grade for the exam. If there is a serious emergency, you can provide proper documentation and (when possible) have notified me before the exam, a substitute grade will be calculated based on the normalized average of your remaining future exams.

The final exam must be taken at the scheduled time unless an incomplete contract has previously been approved according to Leventhal School of Accounting guidelines.

Quizzes

Quizzes may include multiple-choice questions, exercises and problems. They will be given one 'class week' before each exam (including the final). Preparing for quizzes is facilitated by keeping up with the work in class, reworking problems we have done in class, and trying other problems. No make-up quizzes will be given as only the two highest raw scores are used to generate the quiz component of the total score.

In-class Exercises

At various points during the semester, unannounced exercises will be introduced to provide students with examples of kind of material they should expect to see on exams. These exercises can be completed by ad hoc groups, of four members or less, using any course materials present (i.e., open book / open notes). Points are earned by students completing the exercise based on the proper application of the techniques covered during class discussion. No make-ups or alternative assignments will be accepted.

Team Assignment

The Team Assignment will be handed out during the semester. It is an analysis based assignment that will require your team to: acquire data and information about a public company; perform an analysis based on the data and information you acquire; develop a model for the company's cost structure; and produce a set of management deliverables explaining your findings. Final documentation will be due at the beginning of the final class and will consist of: 1) a professional / high quality report in hardcopy with appropriate formatting and appendices; and 2) an executive presentation in softcopy of your key findings.

MARSHALL GUIDELINES

Learning Goals

In this class, emphasis will be placed on the USC Marshall School of Business learning goals as follows:

Goal	Description	Course Emphasis
1	Our graduates will understand types of markets and key business areas and their interaction <i>to effectively manage different types of enterprises</i>	Medium
2	Our graduates will develop a global business perspective. They will understand how local, regional, and international markets, and economic, social and cultural issues impact business decisions <i>so as to anticipate new opportunities in any marketplace</i>	Low
3	Our graduates will demonstrate critical thinking skills <i>so as to become future-oriented decision makers, problem solvers and innovators</i>	Medium
4	Our graduates will develop people and leadership skills to promote their effectiveness <i>as business managers and leaders</i>	Low
5	Our graduates will demonstrate ethical reasoning skills, understand social, civic, and professional responsibilities <i>and aspire to add value to society</i>	Low
6	Our graduates will be effective communicators <i>to facilitate information flow in organizational, social, and intercultural contexts</i>	Low

Add / Drop Process

Students may drop via Web Registration at any time prior to Wednesday, October 1st. Please note that if you drop after September 2nd your transcripts will show a W for the class. Students may add the class as space becomes available via Web Registration through the registration deadline.

Dates to Remember:

Last day to add classes or drop without a "W"	Tuesday – September 2 nd
Last day to drop with "W"	Wednesday – October 1 st

Retention of Graded Coursework

Graded work that has not been returned to you will be retained for one year after the end of the semester. Any other materials not picked up by the end of the semester will be discarded after final grades have been submitted.

Technology Policy

Laptop and Internet usage is not permitted during academic or professional sessions unless otherwise stated by the professor. Use of other personal communication devices, such as cell phones, is considered unprofessional and is not permitted during academic or professional sessions. Upon request, all electronic devices in your possession (e.g., cell / smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be completely turned off and / or put face down on the desk in front of you. In addition, at certain times (i.e., during exams), you might also be asked to deposit your devices in a designated area in the classroom. Video recording of faculty lectures is not permitted due to copyright infringement regulations. Audio recording is only permitted if approved in advance by the professor. Use of any recorded or distributed material is reserved exclusively for the USC students registered in this class.

Recordings

No student may record any lecture, class discussion or meeting with the professor without the professor's prior express written permission. The word "record" or the act of recording includes, but is not limited to, any and all means by which sound or visual images can be stored, duplicated or retransmitted whether by an electro-mechanical, analog, digital, wire, electronic or other device or any other means of signal encoding. The professor reserves all rights, including copyright, to lectures, course syllabi and related materials, including summaries, PowerPoints, prior exams, answer keys, and all supplementary course materials available to the students enrolled in this class whether posted on Blackboard or otherwise. They may not be reproduced, distributed, copied, or disseminated in any media or in any form, including but not limited to all course note-sharing websites. Exceptions are made for students who have made prior arrangements with DSP and the professor.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. For more information visit www.usc.edu/disability.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, (www.usc.edu/scampus or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>. Failure to adhere to the academic conduct standards set forth by these guidelines and our programs will not be tolerated by the USC Marshall community and can lead to dismissal.

Emergency Preparedness / Course Continuity

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. USC's Blackboard learning management system and support information is available at blackboard.usc.edu.

For additional information, you may use any of the following:

USC Emergency – (213) 740-4321
USC Emergency Information – (213) 740-9233
USC Information – (213) 740-2311
KUSC Radio – 91.5 FM

Schedule of Classes

Session	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments*	Preparation
Management Accounting				
1	8/25	Managerial Accounting Overview & Review	Ch 1 Ch 2	E2-5, P2-14 P2-18, E5-5 E5-7, P5-25
2	8/27	Job-Order Costing	Ch 3	E3-1, E3-3 E3-5, E3-6
3	9/3	Job-Order Costing / Activity-Based Costing: A Tool to Aid Decision Making	Ch 3 Ch 7	E3-8, E7-2 E7-3, E7-4 E7-5
4	9/8	Activity-Based Costing: A Tool to Aid Decision Making	Ch 7	E7-11, P7-18
5	9/10	Variable Costing and Segment Reporting: Tools for Management	Ch 6	E6-12, E6-13 E6-11, E6-14
6	9/15	Flexible Budgets and Performance Analysis	Ch 9	E9-1, E9-4 P9-20
7	9/17	Exam I (Sessions 1 – 6)		
8	9/22	Standard Costs and Variances	Ch 10	P10-10, P10-14 P10-16
9	9/24	Profit Planning	Ch 8	E8-7, E8-13 E8-14
10	9/29	Profit Planning	Ch 8	P8-16, P8-17 P8-26
11	10/1	Performance Measurement in Decentralized Organizations	Ch 11	E11-7, E11-9 P11-14, P11-15 P11-18, P11-17
12	10/6	Differential Analysis: The Key to Decision Making	Ch 12	E12-2, E12-5 E12-7, E12-12 E12-14
13	10/8	Differential Analysis: The Key to Decision Making	Ch 12	P12-23, P12-25 P12-27, P12-28
Final	10/15	Final Exam (Sessions 8 – 13)		10:00 – 11:50 am

* GNB – Garrison, Noreen & Brewer

**LEVENTHAL SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING
GRADING AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

BUAD 281, 285ab, 286ab, 305X

The Leventhal School of Accounting adheres strictly to the grading standards of the University and the School of Business Administration. Additionally, the Leventhal School of Accounting has supplemented those standards with certain others. For students' convenience, and to prevent misunderstanding, these additional standards are summarized below.

GRADING STANDARDS

The following grades are used: A - excellent; B - good; C - fair; D - minimum passing; F - failure. The grade of F is awarded for failing work at the end of the semester. The assignment of minuses and pluses when earned is required.

The grade of W (Withdraw) is assigned if the student officially withdraws after the third week but before the end of the twelfth week of the semester. No withdrawals will be permitted after the end of the twelfth week except by student petition to the University's Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures.

Students may elect to audit courses during the first three weeks of the semester. A course taken for audit (V) will be assessed at the current tuition rate. A course taken for audit (V) will not receive credit and will not appear on the USC transcript or grade report. Under no circumstances will the University allow a change in the registration status of a course from letter grade or credit to audit (V) or vice versa after the third week of a given semester.

The grade of IN (Incomplete, i.e., work not completed because of documented illness or some other emergency occurring after the twelfth week of the semester) is reserved for those highly unusual cases where, due to circumstances judged fit by the Dean of the Leventhal School of Accounting, the student is unable to complete a specified single item of the course requirements by the time final grades are submitted.

IN grades can be removed only by the student completing the missing requirements of the course to the satisfaction of the instructor.

Marks of IN in courses numbered below 500 must be removed by the end of the semester following the one in which the mark of IN was assigned. If not removed within the specified time limit, marks of IN automatically become marks of IX (expired incomplete), with the exception of thesis and dissertation, and compute in the GPA as an F. A student may remove the IN only by completing the work not finished as a result of illness or emergency. It is not possible to remove an incomplete by re-registering for the course. Previously graded work may not be repeated for credit.

**LEVENTHAL SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING
GRADING AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

BUAD 281, 285ab, 286ab, 305X

G.P.A. PREREQUISITES FOR UNDERGRADUATE ACCOUNTING COURSES

The following are grade point average prerequisites for any undergraduate student enrolled in any accounting course. Individual instructors may not waive these standards: (1) an average grade of B or better in BUAD 280 and 281 or BUAD 285ab or BUAD 286ab with neither grade lower than a B-. If applicable, transfer students are required to meet an average grade of B in the two transferred accounting courses and BUAD 305x (with neither grade lower than a B-).

In meeting the B (3.0) average required for admission to the Leventhal School of Accounting, only one of the courses may be repeated. If the repeated course grade is higher, that grade will be considered in determining whether the student meets the B average for admission, and the original course grade will be disregarded by the Leventhal School. See Repeated Course Work at USC, USC Catalogue, for further restrictions on including grades in repeated classes in the overall grade point average computation.

In computing grade point average prerequisites, BUAD 280 and 281 or BUAD 285ab or BUAD 286ab, BUAD 302T and BUAD 305x will be considered accounting courses.

Grades in accounting courses taken at other institutions will not be included in the computation of the cumulative accounting grade point average. **Exception:** transfer students taking BUAD 305x and seeking admission to the School of Accounting.

When a student's cumulative accounting grade point average falls below 2.5, the student is placed on probation. If a student on probation does not regain a minimum accounting cumulative GPA of 2.5 after completing the next 12 semester hours in all courses (including accounting courses) attempted within the University, that student will not be permitted to continue as an accounting major in the Leventhal School of Accounting. Exceptions to this policy may be granted only in unusual circumstances by the Academic Standards Committee of the Leventhal School of Accounting. Decisions of the Academic Standards Committee are final.

To be removed from probationary status, a student may elect either to take another accounting course or courses for which prerequisites are met or to repeat an accounting course or courses in an attempt to earn a higher grade. Regardless of the course of action taken, all courses completed will be counted in computing the cumulative accounting grade point average.

The grade of "W" in an accounting course taken while a student is on probation will not extend probation. The probation period ends at the end of that semester during which the student completes a cumulative total of 12 semester hours of courses in any subject(s) at the university. Under no conditions will the student be permitted more than two successive semesters, including the summer semester, to complete the 12 semester hours of courses.

Students must attain a minimum 2.5 cumulative accounting grade point average to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree.

**LEVENTHAL SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING
GRADING AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

BUAD 281, 285ab, 286ab, 305X

OTHER ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1. The ability of students to write clearly and concisely is a necessary prerequisite to success in accounting work. Accordingly, students will be required to demonstrate writing capability in all accounting courses. This may be accomplished primarily through the inclusion of essay-type questions on course examinations.
2. No unregistered students are permitted to attend accounting classes regularly.

Important Dates for Fall 2014

First Day of Class (431 Session)	Monday, August 25
Labor Day, University Holiday	Monday, September 1
Last Day to Add or Drop w/out a "W" (431 Session)	Tuesday, September 2
Meet the Firms (California Science Center)	Tuesday, September 23 (6 – 9 pm)
Last Day to Drop with a "W" (431 Session)	Wednesday, October 1
Last Class Meeting (431 Session)	Friday, October 10
Study Days (431 Session)	Monday, October 13 – Tuesday, October 14
Final Exams (431 Session)	Wednesday, October 15 – Thursday, October 16
First Day of Class (442 Session)	Monday, October 20
Last Day to Add or Drop w/out a "W" (442 Session)	Monday, October 27
Last Day to Drop with a "W" (442 Session)	Tuesday, November 25
Thanksgiving Break	Wednesday, November 26 – Friday, November 28
Last Class Meeting (442 Sessions)	Friday, December 5
Study Days (442 Sessions)	Monday, December 8 – Tuesday, December 9
Final Exams (442 Sessions)	Wednesday, December 10 – Wednesday, December 17