



UNSW Course Outline

ACTL5108 Finance and Financial Reporting for Actuaries - 2024

Published on the 26 Aug 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ACTL5108

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : School of Risk and Actuarial Studies

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The aim of the course is to provide the future actuary with a basic understanding of corporate finance and financial reporting. The course will cover the instruments used by companies to raise finance and manage financial risk and will develop an understanding of how to interpret the

accounts and financial statements of companies and financial institutions.

Course Aims

Equip future actuaries with corporate finance and financial reporting knowledge, including risk management, interpretation of accounts, and ethical responsibility.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course covers the syllabus of CB1 for the Actuaries Institute for those wishing to complete the actuarial professional qualification. Candidates wishing to qualify as an actuary will be exempted from sitting the external examinations for CB1 if they gain a Credit or above in this course. CB1 is particularly important for Asset-Liability Management in the Actuary Program. The course is also important as it provides the context for the use of actuarial liabilities that are central to the actuary's statutory responsibilities.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CLO1 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the principal terms in use in investment and asset management	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO2 : Demonstrate an awareness of the key principles of finance	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO3 : Describe the structure of a joint stock company and the different methods by which it may be financed	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO4 : Describe the basic principles of personal and corporate taxation	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO5 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the principal forms of financial instrument issued or used by companies and the ways in which they may be issued	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO6 : Discuss the factors to be considered by a company when deciding on its capital structure and dividend policy	• PLO2 : Problem Solving
CLO7 : Define what is meant by a company's cost of capital and discuss how its cost of capital interacts with the nature of the investment projects it undertakes	• PLO2 : Problem Solving
CLO8 : Describe the major types of financial institution operating in the financial markets	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO9 : Describe the basic construction of accounts of different types and the role and principal features of the accounts of a company	• PLO1 : Business Knowledge
CLO10 : Interpret the accounts of a company or a group of companies and discuss the limitations of such interpretation	• PLO2 : Problem Solving
CLO11 : Show how financial techniques can be used in the assessment of capital investment projects	• PLO2 : Problem Solving
CLO12 : Present written work logically and professionally	• PLO3 : Business Communication
CLO13 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner	• PLO3 : Business Communication
CLO14 : Work collaboratively to complete a task	• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice
CLO15 : Identify and assess ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations in an actuarial context	• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the principal terms in use in investment and asset management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO2 : Demonstrate an awareness of the key principles of finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO3 : Describe the structure of a joint stock company and the different methods by which it may be financed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO4 : Describe the basic principles of personal and corporate taxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO5 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the principal forms of financial instrument issued or used by companies and the ways in which they may be issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO6 : Discuss the factors to be considered by a company when deciding on its capital structure and dividend policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO7 : Define what is meant by a company's cost of capital and discuss how its cost of capital interacts with the nature of the investment projects it undertakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO8 : Describe the major types of financial institution operating in the financial markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO9 : Describe the basic construction of accounts of different types and the role and principal features of the accounts of a company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO10 : Interpret the accounts of a company or a group of companies and discuss the limitations of such interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO11 : Show how financial techniques can be used in the assessment of capital investment projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO12 : Present written work logically and professionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Discussion Forum • Final Examination
CLO13 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Forum
CLO14 : Work collaboratively to complete a task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Forum
CLO15 : Identify and assess ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations in an actuarial context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative Quiz • Final Examination • Discussion Forum

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | EdStem

Learning and Teaching in this course

Students are encouraged to become deep learners. As a deep learner, you would have taken responsibility for your own learning, and have chosen to become interested in the subject for its own sake rather than merely to pass the exams. You will be developing your own personal opinions on the subject, and will go on learning and thinking throughout life. Students may find it helpful to use the Biggs study process questionnaire on Moodle to understand the extent to which you are a deep learner.

There are many facts to learn about the financial reporting and management and these will be covered in the readings and in the lectures. Both readings and lectures will, however, also expose students to different opinions and you will be expected to develop your own views on the difficult and sometimes controversial questions that have to be addressed in practice. In many cases, there are no right answers.

This could be described as a guided self-learning approach, and is expected to provide a greater depth of understanding of the concepts compared to lectures that only involve lecturers talking. The ultimate aim is for you to see yourself as a member of the actuarial (or related) profession and be able to apply your knowledge to new situations encountered in the financial sector.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Formative Quiz Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	20%	Start Date: 30/09/2023 12:01 AM Due Date: 06/10/2023 11:59 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO3 : Business Communication• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice
Discussion Forum Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	20%	Start Date: Weekly Due Date: Weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO3 : Business Communication• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice
Final Examination Assessment Format: Individual	60%		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice

Assessment Details

Formative Quiz

Assessment Overview

Quizzes designed for continuous feedback, aiding students' understanding and application of course content.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the principal terms in use in investment and asset management
- CLO2 : Demonstrate an awareness of the key principles of finance
- CLO3 : Describe the structure of a joint stock company and the different methods by which it may be financed
- CLO4 : Describe the basic principles of personal and corporate taxation
- CLO5 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the principal forms of financial instrument issued or used by companies and the ways in which they may be issued
- CLO6 : Discuss the factors to be considered by a company when deciding on its capital structure and dividend policy
- CLO7 : Define what is meant by a company's cost of capital and discuss how its cost of

- capital interacts with the nature of the investment projects it undertakes
- CLO8 : Describe the major types of financial institution operating in the financial markets
 - CLO9 : Describe the basic construction of accounts of different types and the role and principal features of the accounts of a company
 - CLO10 : Interpret the accounts of a company or a group of companies and discuss the limitations of such interpretation
 - CLO11 : Show how financial techniques can be used in the assessment of capital investment projects
 - CLO12 : Present written work logically and professionally
 - CLO15 : Identify and assess ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations in an actuarial context

Detailed Assessment Description

The formative quiz will assess critical analysis and problem solving skills as well as written communication skills, and correspond to the Learning Outcomes. In addition, the quiz provides a feedback mechanism for students to gauge their progress in the course.

The quiz will be uploaded on Moodle during Week 4 and students will have one-week window to complete the task. Students will be permitted to make unlimited attempts during this window and full credits awarded for correct explanations of the main concepts and issues examined in each question. Marks for calculation questions will be awarded on mathematical working as well as part marks for incorrect responses with correct method and reasoning. The questions will test not only your knowledge of the material but also the depth of your understanding. Under normal exam conditions, students will be expected to complete this task within 1 hour.

Assessment Length

One week

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Discussion Forum

Assessment Overview

An online environment fostering peer discussion and deepened understanding of course content.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the principal terms in use in investment and asset management
- CLO2 : Demonstrate an awareness of the key principles of finance
- CLO3 : Describe the structure of a joint stock company and the different methods by which it may be financed
- CLO4 : Describe the basic principles of personal and corporate taxation
- CLO5 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the principal forms of financial instrument issued or used by companies and the ways in which they may be issued
- CLO6 : Discuss the factors to be considered by a company when deciding on its capital structure and dividend policy
- CLO7 : Define what is meant by a company's cost of capital and discuss how its cost of capital interacts with the nature of the investment projects it undertakes
- CLO8 : Describe the major types of financial institution operating in the financial markets
- CLO9 : Describe the basic construction of accounts of different types and the role and principal features of the accounts of a company
- CLO10 : Interpret the accounts of a company or a group of companies and discuss the limitations of such interpretation
- CLO11 : Show how financial techniques can be used in the assessment of capital investment projects
- CLO12 : Present written work logically and professionally
- CLO13 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner
- CLO14 : Work collaboratively to complete a task
- CLO15 : Identify and assess ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations in an actuarial context

Detailed Assessment Description

The course offers discussions to practice the concepts you have learned each week. The discussions will reinforce your learning and help you identify the areas you need to focus on. Please see more information about the discussion questions on the course website.

Assessment Length

Weekly

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Final Examination

Assessment Overview

A final assessment to assess students' knowledge, in line with accreditation standards

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the principal terms in use in investment and asset management
- CLO2 : Demonstrate an awareness of the key principles of finance
- CLO3 : Describe the structure of a joint stock company and the different methods by which it may be financed
- CLO4 : Describe the basic principles of personal and corporate taxation
- CLO5 : Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the principal forms of financial instrument issued or used by companies and the ways in which they may be issued
- CLO6 : Discuss the factors to be considered by a company when deciding on its capital structure and dividend policy
- CLO7 : Define what is meant by a company's cost of capital and discuss how its cost of capital interacts with the nature of the investment projects it undertakes
- CLO8 : Describe the major types of financial institution operating in the financial markets
- CLO9 : Describe the basic construction of accounts of different types and the role and principal features of the accounts of a company
- CLO10 : Interpret the accounts of a company or a group of companies and discuss the limitations of such interpretation
- CLO11 : Show how financial techniques can be used in the assessment of capital investment

projects

- CLO12 : Present written work logically and professionally
- CLO15 : Identify and assess ethical, environmental and sustainability considerations in an actuarial context

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

General Assessment Information

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Code of Conduct](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Code of Conduct, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course, you must:

- achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100;
- meet any additional requirements described in the Assessment Summary section.

You are expected to attempt all assessment requirements in the course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Overview of Financial Management Reading: Chapter 1, Chapter 8-9
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Introduction to Accounting Reading: Chapter 2
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	Financial Statement Analysis Reading: Chapter 3
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Financial Instrument and Valuation, Corporate Decisions and Taxation Reading: Chapter 6-7
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	The Capital Asset Pricing Model Reading: Chapter 11
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Other	No Class
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Capital Structure and Cost of Capital Reading: Chapter 12-13
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Practical Issues and Applications of Capital Project Analysis Reading: Chapter 16-17
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Leverage and Dividend Policy Reading: Chapter 14
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Capital Markets and Issuing Securities Course Review and Professional Ethics Reading: Chapter 15

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The required reading for this course is:

- Ross, S., Trayler, R., Bird, R., Westerfield, R., Jordan, B., 2019. Essentials of Corporate Finance. 5th Australian and New Zealand Edition. McGraw-Hill, Sydney.

Other papers and resources will supplement the textbook, which will be made available on Moodle.

The Moodle site for this course will contain the Course Outline, presentations made by lecturers, supplementary IFoA CB1 questions and any notices relevant to this course. It also gives access to online revision questions for each chapter in the textbook. It is recommended that students use some of these to test themselves. It is important that you visit the site regularly to see any notices posted there and are able to regularly read the emails sent by Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the myExperience survey, which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students

and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

Each course in actuarial studies at UNSW is reviewed each session by the course co-ordinator using student evaluative feedback from myExperience. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based on such feedback. Significant changes to the course are communicated to students taking the course. Your input into improving future offerings of the course is highly valued.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Kyu Park					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the [Policies and Guidelines](#) page.

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be

able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to [UNSW graduate capabilities](#). More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the [Policies and Guidelines](#) page. For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to [UNSW HDR learning outcomes](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Code of Conduct](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Code of Conduct, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SHORT EXTENSIONS

Short Extension is a new process that allows you to apply for an extended deadline on your assessment without the need to provide supporting documentation, offering immediate approval during brief, life-disrupting events. Requests are automatically approved once submitted.

Short extensions are ONLY available for some assessments. Check your course outline or Moodle to see if this is offered for your assessments. Where a short extension exists, all students enrolled in that course in that term are eligible to apply. Further details are available the [UNSW Current Students](#) page.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control

interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable.

Applications can only be made online and will NOT be accepted by teaching staff. Applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application. The majority of applications will be processed within 3-5 working days.

For further information, and to apply, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. In the case of an approved Equitable Learning Plan (ELP) provision, special consideration or short extension, the late penalty applies from the date of approved time extension. After five days from the extended deadline, the assessment cannot be submitted.

An assessment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the 'wrong' assessment has been submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-

based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a [protocol](#) under which students may view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Banking & Finance** should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Information Systems & Technology Management** should also refer to [this page](#).

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly advised to refer to the [Class Timetable website](#) for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.