Mississippi Valley State University Rural Public Policy and Planning Program

RP 523-E01: Financial Accounting in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors

Spring 2019

Course time: Online Asynchronous

Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Mushi Office: SSB MRPP Room

Phone: 662-254-3352/3547

Email: rjmushi@mvsu.edu (Communication email)

Office Hours: Mondays (3:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Tuesdays (4:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Thursdays (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Other times by appointment

For Technical Support: Contact Mr. Mack Pendleton, Continuing Education, at 662-254-3114 or 254-3913. Email (for blackboard only): pendleton.bb.mvsu@gmail.com

Catalog Course description

This course addresses financial issues involved in governing and managing nonprofit organizations. The course will cover the following topics: cash flow analysis; budgeting; fund accounting; cost accounting (determining costs for programs and services); understanding and using standard financial statements, including balance sheets, cash flow statements, statements of activity, and operating and capital budgets.

Expanded Course Description

The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the application of analytical tools to resolve financial management and budgeting issues through the use of case studies, questions for discussions and problem solving.

The course provides a foundation in financial management to allow people to understand and use financial information. The course will cover topics on tools financial planning such as budgeting (operating and capital) and long-term financing, cost accounting (determining costs for programs); tools for financial implementation and controlling results such as accountability and control; and tools for financial reporting and analysis that includes understanding and using standard financial statements such as balance sheets, the activity and cash flow statements, fund accounting and financial condition analysis.

Student Learning Objectives

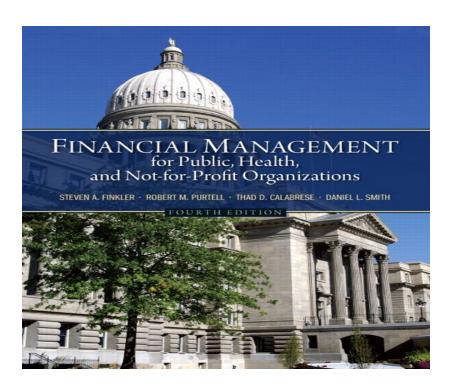
While learning objectives are topic specific, at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Read and interpret financial information;
- 2. Perform straight forward financial analyses;
- 3. Use financial information to make decisions.

Course Requirements

Required textbook

Finkler, Steven A. et al. (2013) 4th edition). <u>Financial Management for Public, Health, and Notfor-Profit Organizations</u>. NJ: Prentice Hall. (ISBN: 9780132805667). This textbook can be purchased from the MVSU bookstore. You can also use the following CourseSmart website to download eTextbook: http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/4753711/9780132805704? hdv=6.8



FOR STUDENT RESOURCES

Go to: www.pearsonhighered.com/finkler

Click on: Companion Website

Click on: Chapter numbers in bar going across page to find resources

Equipment/Software: The class will extensively use electronic spreadsheets (Excel in particular). We believe that there is a movement away from the use of calculators. You are encouraged to use excel spreadsheets using a computer or other devices such as PDA, tablet, or Smartphone. However, the use of calculator is not prohibited.

Student Requirements

- a. Read the course Homepage for instructions on how to participate in this course. This course is being taught in an online format. Keep in mind that this is not a computer course. You will find instructions on accessing the Blackboard course Environment from the Student Demo Homepage. From the Blackboard course Environment, you can obtain a copy of the course syllabus, and access all course modules for submitting discussion items, assignments, and exams. Email is also available.
- b. **Download a copy of the course syllabus and retain it for the entire semester.** The syllabus contains all course requirements and materials including assigned readings, discussion items, assignments, and exams. All course content may be accessed through the Blackboard course Environment link from the Course Homepage. You are responsible for all assigned readings each week as identified in the course syllabus. Your assigned readings will be accompanied with weekly PowerPoint presentation. Do not attempt to respond to the discussion questions before reading the assigned material for the week.

- (1) **Discussion Questions**: These items in the textbook are there to help guide you into studying important points within the chapters. You are required to post answers in the discussion module to the discussion items the instructor will assign for weekly discussions. The instructor may select discussion questions from the textbook or design any other questions appropriate to the topic. Your answers/responses must reflect your understanding of the material identified for you to read. And, you are responsible for reading and becoming familiar with all materials, not just the discussion items you choose to answer. **In your answers make sure you identify the page numbers where your answer is based on**.
- (2) **Chapter Assignments: Conceptual Questions and Problems**Each student is required to post answers in the Blackboard assignments module to the conceptual questions and problems assigned for the week. Excel templates for selected problems requiring excel for all chapter readings will be made available to students.
- (3) **Quizzes:** Each student is required to post answers in the Blackboard quizzes module quizzes for the week as per syllabus.

Important:

Assignments and Quizzes: Complete all discussions, assignments and quizzes and submit them into the Blackboard respective module no later than Friday at 6:00pm of the week that it is due. Read each assigned work completely and respond to the question(s) associated with the assignment. Give ample details in your responses so that it is evident that you read the chapter and understand the material. **Do not plagiarize (take information verbatim from a source without citing the source) or give direct statements from the book in response to questions.** You must be able to make your own assessment of the information that you read and write about.

- (5) **Exams**: Two examinations will be given, a midterm and a final examination. You are expected to take these exams through Blackboard when they are due during the semester. You should check the course outline in Blackboard or the course syllabus to find out when these exams are scheduled and mark them on your calendar, so you don't forget to take them. You MUST remember to log on and take the exams. If you fail to take an exam for any reason other than medical illness, death, or other similarly serious conflict which kept you from accessing a computer for the entire availability of the exam, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. If you do suffer one of these serious conflicts, you must notify me immediately. I won't accept any excuses at the end of the semester. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings. Exam answers will only be accepted via the controlled environment of the online exam module. All exams are timed. Typically, you will be allowed 120 minutes to take an exam. Always check the time limit on the exam before beginning. Each exam will be accessible for 5 days; I will usually inform you via the Blackboard communication mail. You will have only one opportunity to take each exam. You should therefore try to take the exam as early as possible so if you experience trouble we can try to fix it. Don't wait until the last minute and then tell me you had computer or connection problems.
- (6) **Additional Exam requirements**: NO MAKE-UP exams will be given. Take exams as soon as they are available to give yourself a little time in case something happens with your computer or the Blackboard server. There will be no extension of testing dates because of personal computer failure. If you wait until the last minute and then your computer doesn't work, you will receive a zero for the exam. If your computer is unstable, plan to take the exam from a different computer that is more reliable. Failure to protect your own account access and ensure your proper login identification is not a valid excuse for missing an exam. The use of

online exams requires an assumption of academic honesty on the part of the student. You can use any of your personal notes you like to take these exams, but you must take them on your own. Any evidence that someone else has taken an exam on your behalf, or that you took an exam with the assistance of someone else, or for someone else, will result in automatic failure of the course for you and any other class member(s) involved with no exceptions. If you are unfamiliar with online testing and worried about being able to access the system successfully use the help module on the Blackboard or contact me for further instructions.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity includes a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act that is committed in an academic context. Honesty and integrity are essential values of the Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. Therefore, Mississippi Valley State University will not tolerate academic dishonest in any form and will impose sanctions if clearly demonstrated. Academic dishonesty erodes the quality and value of degree conferred.

Although the faculty is responsible for establishing standards for moral and academic excellence in teaching and learning, these standards can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Students are expected, therefore, to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all acts inside and outside the classroom, studio or laboratory.

For a detailed description of sanctions and appeal procedures consult Student Handbook and/or Undergraduate Catalog.

Diversity Statement

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographic area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the Social Sciences Building in Room 105 to register for the program at the beginning of each semester.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mrs. Kathy Brownlow via phone or email at 662-254-3443 or kbrownlow@mvsu.edu.

Grade Appeals:

Any student who believes s/he has been graded unfairly, even after talking with me, may appeal that grade by following the procedures set out by the University in the Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to prove that you deserve a higher grade. Keep all copies of your work.

Course Policies and Procedures

Threaded Discussion is available in Blackboard. You will be able to ask questions about course content and share information with each other. A classmate may be able to answer a question about content more quickly than your instructor. In addition, posting content questions in the Discussion Board will allow everyone to view the answers to frequently asked questions. The instructor monitors the Discussion Board with the intention of providing responses every workday when deemed necessary. Discussion created as assignments requires contributions to the discussion board. Students are expected to post responses to module questions and peers' postings on a regular basis.

Discussion board postings should be of quality rather than quantity. For example, a response that basically says "I agree" with no additional information or documentation will earn 0 points; responses that possess a higher standard of quality will be graded accordingly.

Instructional/Learning Strategies

This course is organized into 13 learning modules; each module contains PowerPoint lecture files, assigned readings, weekly discussion and assignments that include bi-weekly quizzes, conceptual questions and problem solving. In addition, there will be two exams: Midterm and Final. **Each student will spend a minimum of 2,250 minutes on course activities for 3 credit hours course.**

Performance	e Standards a	nd Grading Policy	1	Points	% of grade
*	Weekly discus	ssion questions		100	10%
*	Chapter assig	nments: Conceptual	Questions	100	10%
		Problems		100	10%
*	Bi-weekly Qui	zzes		100	10%
*	Mid-Term exa	m		100	20%
*	Final Exam			<u>100</u>	<u>20%</u>
			Total	600	100%
Grading Scale 90-100 70-79 0-59	= A = C = F	Points 540-600 = A 420-479 = C 0-359 = F	Grading Scale 80-89 60-69	e = B = D	Points 480-539 = B 360-478 = D

Course Schedule

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Week/Date	Topics/Activities	Time
Week 1 Jan. 07-11	Orientation, Introductions and Course Overview Discussions with Mr. Mack Pendleton, Continuing Education, regarding how to use the Blackboard and be successful in your online class. Please contact Mr. Pendleton at 662-254-3114 or 254-3913 Email: Pendleton.bb.mvsu@gmail.com Course & Syllabus Overview/Logistics (Please download the syllabus and read. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me on the discussion board). Assignment 1: This assignment requires you to indicate: Name: Last, First Convenient Phone: Office, Home (if contact is needed) E-mail address Degree Program Major Job title, if working, and employer Previous financial background, if any, and a detailed statement of your expectations for the course after reading the syllabus (300 min 500 max. words).	30 mins.
Week 2 Jan 14-18	Topic: Introduction to Financial Management Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 1 (24 pages) The learning objectives of this chapter are to: ↓ define financial management; ↓ define accounting and finance; ↓ discuss the sources and uses of resources in the public sector, including the federal government, state and local governments, health care organizations, and not-for-profit organizations; ↓ explain why public service organizations should be concerned with financial management; and ↓ explain why public service organizations should earn profits. Week 1: Threaded Discussion Due (Max. points = 20) Please post your top 4 policy issues related to financial management in public organizations and your justification for the issues (one paragraph long).	50 mins.
	Quiz 1: (Due (Maximum points = 20)	25 mins.
Week 3 Jan. 21-25	Topic: Planning for Success: Budgeting Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 2 (50 pages) The learning objectives of this chapter are to:	120 mins.

Week 4 Jan. 28-Feb. 01	 define <i>mission</i> and describe the role of mission for public service organizations; define <i>strategic plan</i> and discuss the importance of selecting a strategy and identifying goals for the organization; explain the role of the long-range or operating plan in setting the organization's specific objectives to aid in achieving its goals; define <i>budget</i> and explain how the budget provides the detailed plan for accomplishing the objectives defined in the long-range plan; define and discuss different types of budgets, including <i>special purpose</i>, <i>operating</i>, <i>capital</i>, and <i>cash budgets</i>; explain the budgeting process, including budget preparation, review and adoption, implementation, and evaluation of results; and acknowledge the political aspects of the budget process. Week 2 Threaded Discussion Due Maximum points = 20) Quiz 2: Due (Maximum points = 20) Assignment 1: Chapter 1: Due (Conceptual Questions = 20 points). Topic: Additional Budgeting Concepts Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 3 (40 pages) The learning objectives of this chapter are to: define <i>line-items</i> and <i>responsibility centers</i>, and distinguish between line-item and responsibility center budgeting; explore the issue of centralization versus decentralization 	60 mins. 25 mins. 50 mins.
	budgeting;	
	 define and discuss zero-based budgeting; and introduce forecasting and explain which forecasting techniques are useful when historical data are available, and which are useful when such data are not available. Week 3: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points = 	60 mins.
	20) Assignment 2: Chapter 2: Due Total = 40 points (Conceptual Questions = 20 points and Problems = 20 points).	120 mins.
Week 5 Feb. 4-8	Topic: Understanding Costs Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 4 (44 pages) The learning objectives of this chapter are to:	120 mins.

	 costs, relevant range, mixed costs, and step-fixed costs; discuss the behavior of costs, with a focus on the impact of changes in the volume of services provided; introduce the use of graphs for cost analysis; explain the break-even analysis technique and provide an example of the technique; 	
	 extend the use of break-even analysis to situations with multiple products or services; 	
	 discuss the managerial implications of break-even analysis; define and discuss the margin of safety concept; and 	
	 define and discuss the margin of safety concept; and introduce the concept of cost measurement. Week 4: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points = 	60 mins. 25 mins.
	20)	25 1111113.
	Quiz 3: Due (Maximum points = 20)	
Week 6 Feb. 11-15	Topic: Capital Budgeting Reading Assignment: Finkler Chapter 5 (41 pages)	120 mins.
	The learning objectives of this chapter are to: ↓ introduce capital budgeting and explain why a separate capital budget is needed; ↓ define capital assets, both in theory and practice; ↓ explain the time value of money (TVM) concept and	
	discuss the basic tools of TVM, including compounding and discounting, present and future value, and annuities; present the tools of investment analysis, including net present cost, annualized cost, net present value, and internal rate of return;	
	define and discuss cost-benefit analysis; and define and discuss payback and accounting rate of return.	60 mins.
	Week 5: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points = 20)	120 mins.
	Assignment 3: Chapters 3&4: Due Total 60 points	
	(Conceptual Questions = 20 points and Problems = 40	
	pts.	
Week 7	Topic: Long-Term Financing	
Feb. 18-22	Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 6 (24 pages)	60 mins.
	The learning objectives of this chapter are to: Introduce long-term financing and discuss the two main	
	types of long-term financing: equity financing and debt	
	financing;	
	 explain the nature of retained earnings and its role in long-term financing; 	
	 explain stock issuance and discuss its advantages as a 	
	source of long-term financing for for-profit organizations;	
	 explain how governments can use taxation to generate 	
	long-term financing for capital acquisitions;	
	 discuss the role of contributions in long-term financing; define long-term debt; and 	
	active long term debty and	

	 discuss the advantages and disadvantages of leasing as a source of long-term financing. Week 6: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points = 20) Quiz 4: Due (Maximum points = 20) 	60 mins. 25 mins.
Week 8 Feb. 25-Mar. 01	Topic: Accountability and Control Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 8 (40 pages) The learning objectives of this chapter are to: ↓ define management control systems; ↓ explain the role of variance analysis and a variety of techniques for analyzing variances; ↓ discuss the role of ethics in financial management; ↓ explain the elements of a control system, including the audit trail, reliable personnel, separation of functions, proper authorization, adequate documentation, proper procedures, physical safeguards, bonding, performance audits, and cost-effectiveness analysis; and ↓ discuss the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and its impact on the management of public service organizations.	120 mins.
	Week 8: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points = 20)	60 mins.
	Assignment 4: Chapters 5&6: Due Total = 40 points (Conceptual Questions = 20 points and Problems = 20 points).	120 mins.
Week 9 Mar. 4-8	Midterm Exams	120 mins.
Week 10 Mar. 11-15	Spring Break	
Week 11 Mar. 18-22	Topic: Financial Management Case Studies Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 9 (13 pages) The learning objectives of this chapter are to:	45 mins.

Week 12	Topic: The Statement of Financial Position: The Balance	
Mar. 25-29	Sheet	
	Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 10 (42 pages)	120 mins.
	The learning objectives of this chapter are to: introduce and define financial accounting and	
	the <i>statement of financial position</i> , or <i>balance sheet;</i>	
	provide a framework for financial accounting, based on	
	the fundamental equation of accounting;	
	introduce the concept of Generally Accepted Accounting	
	Principles (GAAP);	
	discuss the entity, monetary denominator, objective	
	evidence, conservatism, going concern, and materiality GAAP;	
	 explain and discuss the accrual basis of accounting; 	
	discuss various asset categories, including cash,	
	marketable securities, accounts receivable, inventory,	
	prepaid expenses, fixed assets, and sinking funds;	
	 discuss various liability categories, including accounts and wages payable, and long-term debt; 	
	discuss net assets including the subcategories of	
	unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently	
	restricted net assets; and	
	 discuss the process of recording financial information and 	
	generating a balance sheet.	_
	Quiz 5: Due (Maximum points = 20)	30 mins.
Week 13	Topic: The Activity and Cash Flow Statements	
Apr. 1-5	Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 11 (49 pages)	120 mins.
	The learning objectives of this chapter are to:	
	explain the purpose of the activity statement and	
	statement of cash flows;	
	 discuss the rules for recording revenue and expense transactions; 	
	 discuss specific aspects of reporting information on 	
	activity statements, including reporting by nature versus	
	source or organizational unit, and administrative and	
	general expenses;	
	discuss bad debt expense, depreciation expense, and	
	inventory used expense;	
	 discuss the cash flow statement, providing a derivation of the statement and an example; 	
	 address the issue of interrelationships among the 	
	financial statements;	
	explain the importance of the notes to the financial	
	statements; and	
	provide an example of recording financial transactions,	
	summarizing the transactions, and reporting the	
	summarized information in a set of financial statements. Week 11: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points =	30 mins.
	20)	50 mms.
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Week 14	Topic: Financial Statement Analysis & Financial	
Apr. 8-12	Condition Analysis Reading assignment: Finkler Chapter 15 (53 pages) & 16 (55	180 mins.
	pages)	100 1111115.
	The learning objectives of these chapters are to:	
	discuss the elements of financial statement analysis,	
	including review of the financial statements, examination	
	of the notes that accompany the financial statements, calculation of ratios, and final assessment;	
	 explain the parts of a financial statement review, 	
	including the audit opinion letter and the individual	
	financial statements;	
	explain the importance of examining the notes that	
	accompany the financial statements and discuss the note	
	that focuses on significant accounting policies, as well as	
	other more specific notes; define ratio analysis and discuss the role that ratios play	
	in assessing the financial situation of an organization;	
	explain the importance of comparing the organization's	
	ratios with its own ratios over time, as well as those of	
	comparable organizations, and the industry as a whole;	
	 define and explain a number of major classes of ratios and specific individual ratios that are of value in financial 	
	statement analysis;	
	 discuss the importance of bringing all of the information 	
	together to make a final financial assessment of the	
	organization.	
	define and discuss financial condition analysis; avalor bour financial condition analysis differs from	
	 explain how financial condition analysis differs from financial statement analysis; and 	
	 discuss ratios appropriate for financial condition analysis. 	
	Week 12: Threaded Discussion Due (Maximum points =	60 mins.
	20)	
	Assignment 5: Chapters 8; 10; & 11: Due Total = 40 points	180 mins.
	(Conceptual Questions = 20 points and Problems = 20 points).	
	points).	
Week 15	Revisions & Consultations	
Apr. 15-19 Week 16	Graduating Seniors Final Exam	120 mins.
Apr. 22-26	Graduating Semois Final Exam	TZU IIIIIS.
Week 17	Final Exam (150 mins.) Due May 02, 2019 (Maximum	120 mins.
Apr. 29-May	points = 100).	
03	Total Vistual Time Described	2 505
	Total Virtual Time Required	2,595

NOTE: This document does not constitute a contract with the University. It contains guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary.