

# ACCT M40: ACCOUNTING ETHICS

**Originator**

rbennington

**College**

Moorpark College

**Discipline (CB01A)**

ACCT - Accounting

**Course Number (CB01B)**

M40

**Course Title (CB02)**

Accounting Ethics

**Banner/Short Title**

Accounting Ethics

**Credit Type**

Credit

**Start Term**

Spring 2021

**Catalog Course Description**

Explores ethics in the accounting profession. Emphasizes theories of ethics and their applications, the California State Board of Accountancy's rules of ethics, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' (AICPA) Code of Professional Conduct, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's (PCAOB) ethics standards, implications of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and ethical requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Uses case studies to develop students' ability to recognize, analyze, and resolve ethical challenges faced by accounting professionals, as well as their skill in effectively communicating and defending their ethical decision-making.

**Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)**

0502.00 - \*Accounting

**Course Credit Status (CB04)**

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

**Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)**

B (Transferable to CSU only)

**Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)**

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

**SAM Priority Code (CB09)**

C - Clearly Occupational

**Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**Course Classification Status (CB11)**

Y - Credit Course

**Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Course Noncredit Category (CB22)**

Y - Credit Course

**Funding Agency Category (CB23)**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**Course Program Status (CB24)**

1 - Program Applicable

**General Education Status (CB25)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Support Course Status (CB26)**

N - Course is not a support course

**Field trips**

Will not be required

**Grading method**

Letter Graded

**Alternate grading methods**

Student Option- Letter/Pass

Pass/No Pass Grading

**Does this course require an instructional materials fee?**

No

**Repeatable for Credit**

No

**Is this course part of a family?**

No

**Units and Hours**

**Carnegie Unit Override**

No

**In-Class**

**Lecture**

**Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Activity**

**Laboratory**

**Total in-Class**

**Total in-Class**

**Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Outside-of-Class****Internship/Cooperative Work Experience**

Paid

Unpaid

**Total Outside-of-Class****Total Outside-of-Class****Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Total Student Learning****Total Student Learning****Total Minimum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Total Maximum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Minimum Units (CB07)**

3

**Maximum Units (CB06)**

3

**Advisories on Recommended Preparation**

MATH M01 and ENGL M02

**Requisite Justification****Requisite Type**

Recommended Preparation

**Requisite**

MATH M01

**Requisite Description**

Course not in a sequence

**Level of Scrutiny/Justification**

Required communication/computation skill

**Requisite Type**

Recommended Preparation

**Requisite**

ENGL M02

**Requisite Description**

Course not in a sequence

**Level of Scrutiny/Justification**

Required communication/computation skill

**Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | identify and apply the requirements of the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and Internal Revenue Service Circular 230. |
|---|--|

**Course Objectives**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | articulate an ethical frame of reference based on established ethical theories for analyzing moral dilemmas and ethical conflicts.   |
| 2 | describe governmental and professional ethical standards and codes that pertain to accounting and business decision-making, including the AICPA Code of Conduct and Internal Revenue Service's Circular 230 entitled, Tax Professionals. |
| 3 | analyze the arguments for and against various courses of action, when faced with an ethical dilemma, at the individual and corporate levels.   |
| 4 | distinguish between ethical and legal standards, and apply the understanding to case studies in business situations.   |
| 5 | describe how "principles-based" measures and "rule-based" measures may give rise to different ethical considerations.  |
| 6 | identify how ethical standards have different effects in managerial accounting situations than in financial accounting situations.   |
| 7 | analyze the role of the accountants in monitoring ethical behavior in business situations.   |
| 8 | apply ethical standards and professional responsibilities to case studies in business situations.  |

**Course Content****Lecture/Course Content**

1. (20%) - Ethical issues and professional responsibilities in accounting
2. (15%) - Major cases of fraud and unethical behavior
3. (10%) - Ethics in tax accounting
4. (10%) - Ethical leadership and decision-making in accounting
5. (10%) - Earnings management
6. (15%) - Fraud in financial statements and auditor responsibilities
7. (10%) - Major theories of ethical behavior
8. (10%) - Organizational ethics and corporate governance

**Laboratory or Activity Content**

N/A

**Methods of Evaluation**

**Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):**

Problem solving exercises  
Written expression

**Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):**

Classroom Discussion  
Essay exams  
Objective exams  
Projects  
Problem-solving exams  
Reports/Papers/Journals

**Instructional Methodology**

**Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course**

Computer-aided presentations  
Class activities  
Distance Education

Guest speakers  
Lecture

**Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:**

Instructor will use PowerPoint presentation, class discussions, small group activity, and classroom demonstration to explain course content. In addition, the instructor will model problem solving, and how to interpret and analyze the verbal information provided in each problem. Furthermore, the instructor will help students develop a sense for evaluating the reasonableness of their answers to the problems.

## Representative Course Assignments

### Writing Assignments

- Prepare a memorandum summarizing the recent changes in the AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct.
- Write a statement of personal values.

### Critical Thinking Assignments

- Determine whether there was a breach of ethics, using a given set of facts.
- Write an evaluation of the conduct of the auditors in the Enron Case.

### Reading Assignments

- Read a Business-related journal article, and/or periodicals to learn about Accounting Practices in the Business Environment. An example would be: reading a journal such as the Journal of Accountancy, Accounting Today, Harvard Business Review, or Forbes to develop a greater understanding of current trends in ethics.
- Identify an ethically contentious issue in the business world (like the events leading up to the collapse of Enron). Read three different news reports on these events and write a short essay identifying any ethical issues that come out of these news reports.

## Outside Assignments

### Representative Outside Assignments

- Research the Tesco Case and assess the behavior of the company.
- Prepare a group presentation to be delivered in class after watching a video on a corporate scandal.

## Articulation

### Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
Santa Barbara City College	ACCT 280	Accounting Ethics and Leadership	3
Glendale College	ACCTG 250	Accounting Ethics	3
Cabrillo College	ACCT 16	Accounting Ethics	3

### Comparable Courses within the VCCCD

ACCT R104 - Accounting Ethics

**District General Education**

**A. Natural Sciences**

**B. Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**C. Humanities**

**D. Language and Rationality**

**E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology**

**F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies**

**Course is CSU transferable**

Yes

**CSU Baccalaureate List effective term:**

F2019

**CSU GE-Breadth**

**Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking**

**Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning**

**Area C: Arts and Humanities**

**Area D: Social Sciences**

**Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development**

**Area F: Ethnic Studies**

**CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:**

**IGETC**

**Area 1: English Communication**

**Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning**

**Area 3: Arts and Humanities**

**Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences**

**Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)**

**Textbooks and Lab Manuals**

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Mintz, Steven, and Roselyn Morris. *Ethical Obligations and Decision-Making in Accounting: Text and Cases*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill, 2020.

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**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Trevino, Linda K., and Katherine A. Nelson. *Managing Business Ethics: Straight Talk about How to Do It Right*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed., Wiley, 2021.

**Library Resources****Assignments requiring library resources**

Possible research using the Library's print and online resources, particularly EBSCO Business Source Elite database.

**Sufficient Library Resources exist**

Yes

**Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources**

Using Library resources, research topics such as recent accounting scandals and the resulting changes in law.

**Distance Education Addendum****Definitions****Distance Education Modalities**

Hybrid (51%–99% online)

Hybrid (1%–50% online)

100% online

**Faculty Certifications**

**Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.**

Yes

**Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.**

Yes

**Regular Effective/Substantive Contact****Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:**

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Instructor will post financial statements of a corporation and invite the students to calculate various ratios and explain their significance. Instructor may also require students to be present on-line for certain number of hours per week and have a dialogue with one another; for example, a student may post a question about solving a problem and other students will try to answer his/her question.
E-mail	Instructor will email students with announcements about the course or an upcoming event. Students in turn may email the instructor with their questions or concerns. Depending on the situation, the students may also email their assignments or projects directly to the instructor, instead of posting it on the class web page.
Face to Face (by student request; cannot be required)	Students will have the option to meet the instructor in his/her office on campus in a classroom to work on problem solving exercises in the presence of the instructor to get one-on-one help from the instructor. Also, the students may want to meet the instructor to have a face-to-face discussion about an issue of concern.

Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Instructor may record the lectures and post them for students to view within a specified time frame to be ready for the accompanying problem solving assignments. Students will upload their assignments to the course webpage to be graded by the instructor.
Synchronous Dialog (e.g., online chat)	Instructor may be available on a certain day or days of the week within a certain time frame to help students and answer their questions via an online chat. This would be the equivalent of on-line office hours. Instructor may also require students to be present on-line during certain hours of the week and have a dialogue with one another; for example, a student may post a question about solving a problem and other students will try to answer his/her question. This would be a live discussion session.
Telephone	Instructor may provide a phone number to the students where they can leave a voicemail and expect a call back within 24 hours.
Video Conferencing	Instructor may be available on a certain day or days of the week within a certain time frame to help students and answer their questions via live video conferencing. This would be the equivalent of on-line office hours. Also, the instructor may choose to present a lecture to the students via video conferencing.
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**100% online Modality:**

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**Examinations****Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality**

Online

**Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality**

Online

**Primary Minimum Qualification**

ACCOUNTING

**Review and Approval Dates****Department Chair**

10/19/2020

**Dean**

10/20/2020

**Technical Review**

11/19/2020

**Curriculum Committee**

12/1/2020

**DTRW-I**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Curriculum Committee**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Board**

MM/DD/YYYY

**CCCCO**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Control Number**

CCC000599708

**DOE/accreditation approval date**

MM/DD/YYYY