

Course Outline

Course Code : ACC 3714
Course Title : Startup Accounting

Semester : Semester 2, Academic Year AY2023/2024
Faculty : David Reeb
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Overview

Startup Accounting is a course specifically designed for students who aspire to join, manage, or launch startups. This course aims to equip students with the essential knowledge and skills required to navigate the unique financial challenges that startups encounter throughout their life cycle. The curriculum covers key topics such as setting up an initial accounting structure, establishing strong internal control systems, financial planning and performance tracking, identifying and securing funding opportunities, preparing for IPO readiness, and understanding the legal obligations of startup firms. Additionally, the course explores areas such as accounting information systems, financial projections, cash flow management, equity financing, exit strategies, and securities regulation. By the end of this course, students will have gained an in-depth understanding of the financial aspects crucial to launching and managing a successful startup, positioning themselves for success in their future entrepreneurial endeavours.

Course Objectives

- Understand and apply key accounting and financial concepts relevant to startups.
- Analyze financial statements and manage cash flow for informed decision-making.
- Evaluate various financing options and create a financial plan for their startups.
- Navigate taxation, legal, and regulatory compliance requirements.
- Implement equity-based compensation and understand exit strategies.
- Assess the readiness of their startups for initial public offerings (IPOs).

Prerequisite

ACC 1701: This course assumes that students are familiar with basic financial accounting concepts and the construction of key financial statements.

Assessment

| Assessment Components | Weightage |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Participation | 10% |
| Exercises | 30% |
| Presentation | 15% |
| Report | 15% |
| Tests | 30% |
| Total | 100% |

Schedule and Outline (Tentative)

| Lesson | Date | Session |
|--------|------|---|
| 1 | | Introduction to Startup Accounting: Financial Statements |
| 2 | | Governance, Legal Infrastructure, and Financial Information |
| 3 | | Financial Performance Metrics for Startups |
| 4 | | Compensation for Employees and Founders |
| 5 | | Role of the Board in Startups |
| 6 | | Revenue Recognition and Costs |
| 7 | | Financing Options for Startups |
| 8 | | Accounting for Debt and Other Obligations |
| 9 | | Accounting for Exits and IPOs |
| 10 | | Taxation and Regulatory Compliance for Startups |
| 11 | | Cash Flow Management for Startups |
| 12 | | Accounting Information Systems: Internal and External |
| 13 | | Presentations and Wrap-up |

General Guide & Reading

Cases and Readings: Via NUS Canvas System

Recommended Textbook: [*Entrepreneurial Finance and Accounting for High-Tech Companies*](#), by Frank Fabozzi, MIT Press.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is 'the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own' (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubts, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

- [Administrative Policies](#)
- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptancerecord#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>
- <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>