Accounting Writing Assessment
Information Session
HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER, 2016, 3:30 PM
S107 PBB
Introduction

Kevin Den Adel, Director of the Undergraduate Accounting Program

Carl Follmer, Assistant Director of the Accounting Writing Program
Overview of the Accounting Department’s writing program.

Explain the writing assessment requirement for admission to the accounting major.

Describe the procedure for administering the assessment.

Offer resources to prepare for the assessment.

Answer your questions.
Why a writing assessment?

- Builds on the strength of the Department of Accounting writing program.
  - An integrated writing program identified as a “model for the academic community” during the 2014 AACSB re-accreditation.

- Effective written communication skills are essential for professional success.
Who must take the assessment?

- All students who plan to declare an Accounting major must pass the assessment.

- Students who have previously passed the Accounting Department’s writing assessment have met this particular admission requirement and do not need to take it again.
Who is eligible to take the assessment?

- Students must have either completed or be currently enrolled in ACCT:2200 (6A:002) Managerial Accounting (or course equivalent) to be eligible for the January assessment.

- If you took the October assessment and didn't pass, you must wait until the February assessment dates, which will be announced after the beginning of the spring semester.

- We will ask for a student ID at the assessment to make sure you meet this requirement.
Location and time?

- The January assessment will be administered on the following dates:
  - Jan 9, 2016, 5:00-6:20 pm in W181 PBB
- Please register for the January assessment if you plan on attending
  - Select which date you plan on attending
What do I bring?

- Each student must bring their **University of Iowa ID** and a **pen**.

- Each student must sign in with his/her **student ID** as verification.
Format of the assessment

- Students have 75 minutes in which to read an article taken from the business press (WSJ or NY Times) and write an essay.
- The essay should summarize the article and analyze an issue raised in the article.
- The summary and analysis should flow together as one essay (between 1/4 and 1/3 of the essay should be summary).
- The essay must have a clear thesis statement that guides the analysis.
What skills will be assessed?

- Five writing skills will be assessed (4 point scale):
  - Micro Skills (grammar and usage)
  - Thesis Statement (thesis for the analysis part of your essay)
  - Development of your summary and analysis paragraphs
  - Clarity and precision of word choices
  - Style (no repetition, limited use of passive voice, professional tone)
In order to succeed...

- Your essay **MUST** have a argument.
  - Summarizing is important, but don’t **only** give summary.
- Your essay **MUST** have a clear thesis statement.
  - Thesis = 1-2 sentences that detail your argument, worth as many points as micro skills
  - Is it arguable?
  - “The article talks about…” is not a thesis.
  - “In this essay I will discuss…” is not a thesis.
  - “Glass bottles are better for the environment than plastic bottles because…” is the beginning of a thesis statement.
- The rest of the essay **MUST** focus on the argument put forth in your thesis.
Scoring of the essay

- Each of the five skill areas will be scored on a scale from 1.0 – 4.0 (half points will be given)
- Maximum total score is 20, minimum is 5
- Scoring at 15.5 or above reflects acceptable writing performance and is the goal of the departmental writing program for each student graduating with a degree in Accounting.
- A score of 12.5 reflects minimum writing proficiency.
- A score of 10.0 or above will be considered a passing score for this assessment.
- Scores between 8.0-11.0 receive a 2nd reading. If the pass/fail result is different from 1st to 2nd reader, a 3rd reader will be the tie-breaker.
When do I learn my results?

- Each student will be notified by e-mail starting on Wednesday Jan 11 if they have passed or not passed the assessment.

- Students who wish to see their assessment grade sheet may pick theirs up (upon showing proper ID) at the Dept. of Accounting office (W252 PBB) beginning Jan 13th.

- Essays remain the property of the department and will not be returned, but may be viewed during an appointment with Carl Follmer.
What if I do not pass?

- Students who do not pass will not be allowed admission to the Accounting major or to enroll in Accounting major courses for the spring 2017 semester.

- Students may choose to take the writing assessment again in the spring 2017 and/or the summer 2017 semesters for entrance into the program in fall 2017.

- Meet with your advisor about other majors and course options.
How to prepare

- Examine the new Writing Assessment page on the Accounting Writing Program website
  - Instruction and FAQ sheet: instructions and answers to questions many students have
  - Writing Assessment Tip Sheet: advice on taking the assessment
  - Sample grade sheet, which you can pick up once your essay is graded
- Read the Frank Center’s Preparing for the Accounting Writing Assessment
- Review the micro skills and macro skills pages on the Accounting Writing Program website
How to prepare (cont’d)


- Pick up practice articles in the Frank Center and create your own essay. These can be reviewed with Frank Center tutors.

- Review other writing tip sheets available at: https://tippie.uiowa.edu/about-tippie/centers-institutes/frank-business-communication-center/tips-and-resources
Assessment date conflicts

- Students currently registered and on-campus in the spring 2016 semester are expected to attend January 9 assessment date.

- Only students meeting one of these conditions may contact Carl Follmer to schedule a make-up test:
  - Registration in a UI class during both test times
  - Official UI absence for a UI event on Jan 9
  - Illness (verified by a doctor’s note for both dates)
  - Funeral of an immediate family member or extreme family emergency (must be verified)
Special testing conditions

- Students who are registered with the Office of Student Disability may arrange for their required test modification.

- Requests and the Student Academic Accommodation Request form should be given to Carl Follmer (W259 PBB or carl-follmer@uiowa.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday Jan. 5.
Contact information

kevin-denadel@uiowa.edu, 335-1412, W372 PBB.

Contact for questions regarding student eligibility and administration of the Accounting Department writing assessment

carl-follmer@uiowa.edu, 335-0913, W259 PBB.

Contact for requests for special testing arrangements, to report a test date conflict qualifying for a make-up assessment test date, or for questions about assessment scoring.
Time for Questions