Cindy J. Melis, MBA, CPA

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Education

UW-LaCrosse 9/87-12/89	General Studies, No Degree Earned	GPA – 3.91
UW-Whitewater 1/89-5/91	Bachelor of Business Administration – Accounting	GPA – 3.94
UW-Milwaukee 1/97-5/98	Master of Business Administration – Finance	GPA – 3.97

Teaching and Work Experience

Marquette University (5/00 – present)

College of Business Administration:

ACCO 1030 – Principles of Financial Accounting
The primary objective of this course is to provide students the opportunity to develop an understanding of the major financial statements of business organizations, namely, the Balance Sheet and the Income Statement, and to learn how to generate, analyze, and interpret these statements, and use of financial information to make decisions. To appreciate the financial statements of an organization, a student must become familiar with the assumptions, principles, concepts and theories underlying the financial statements. Also, one must be acquainted with the process by which financial data is documented. The accounting information system is utilized for recording, classifying, and summarizing the financial events of a business entity. We examine these topics in detail over the course of the semester. Since the corporate form of business is so pervasive in our society, we also learn, in detail, the features and characteristics of a corporation. We also discuss the ethical considerations of the accounting profession and the business environment.

Students taking this course are typically sophomores. Challenges faced in teaching this course are: motivating the non-accounting majors by convincing them of the importance of accounting to their chosen field of study; teaching students what occurs in various business transactions before I can teach them how to account for those transactions; and stimulating interest in a topic that many perceive to be boring.

ACCO 1031 – Principles of Managerial Accounting
This course studies the basic managerial accounting tools for management decision making. The purpose of managerial accounting is to structure financial information to assist management in the decision-making process. The emphasis of managerial accounting is on the use of accounting data within an organization by its managers. Management needs information to carry out three essential functions in an organization: planning operations, controlling activities and making decisions. The purpose of managerial accounting is to show what kind of information is needed, where this information can be obtained, and how this information can be used by managers as they carry out their planning, control and decision-making responsibilities.

Students taking this course are also typically freshmen and sophomores. The same challenges are faced in ACCO 1031 as ACCO 1030. After having had many students for ACCO 1030 and ACCO 1031, I develop many personal relationships by the end of the academic year. I spend a lot of time outside of class advising these students as to their academic and career paths. I find this most rewarding.

ACCO 4010 – Individual Income Tax
After taking this course, students will:

1. Learn the applicable laws regarding the federal income taxation of individuals;
2. Comprehend how tax laws influence personal and business behavior;
3. Apply relevant sources to research the application of tax law to actual and potential transactions; and
4. Develop the ability to prepare federal income tax returns for individuals.

Students taking this course are typically juniors and seniors. Challenges faced in this course are: organizing and communicating a vast amount of tax law in a matter that students will be able to process, comprehend and apply; keeping seniors focused as they approach graduation; and preparing students for the individual taxation portion of the Uniform CPA Examination.

ACCO 6000 – Accounting Foundations and
ACCO 6100 – Managerial Accounting
In content, these courses are very much like ACCO 1030 and 1031. However, these courses are offered as core requirements in the MBA program. Most of the students work a full-time job, taking these courses at night or on the weekend. The teaching method differs from ACCO 1030/1031 in several ways. I approach the topics more from a user perspective in ACCO 6000 and from a preparer perspective in ACCO 1030. Case studies and projects are used to reinforce concepts and apply principles in ACCO 6000/6001, whereas lectures with homework exercises and problems are used in ACCO 1030/1031. The greatest challenges faced in these courses are making the content relevant and applicable to the students in their current jobs, while covering all of the necessary topics.

ACCO 6511 – Taxation of Corporations and Parnterships
After taking this course, students will:

1. Learn the applicable laws regarding the federal income taxation of individuals;
2. Comprehend how tax laws influence personal and business behavior;
3. Apply relevant sources to research the application of tax law to actual and potential transactions; and
4. Develop the ability to prepare federal income tax returns for individuals.

Students taking this course are typically juniors and seniors. Challenges faced in this course are: organizing and communicating a vast amount of tax law in a matter that students will be able to process, comprehend and apply; keeping seniors focused as they approach graduation; and preparing students for the individual taxation portion of the Uniform CPA Examination.

Teaching results:
Student Commentary on Teaching evaluations are completed in all courses in the College of Business each semester. In every course I have taught, I scored above both the college and accounting department averages.

College of Professional Studies:

While at Marquette University, I have had the opportunity to develop and teach a course, Finance and Budgeting: Vital Skills for Non-Financial Managers, for the College of Professional Studies. This is a two-day course with the first day covering the accounting component and the second day covering the finance component. The accounting component covers the compilation and usefulness of the financial statements, and the finance component covers financial statement analysis, cost behavior, cost-volume-profit analysis and budgeting. Challenges faced in this course are: keeping the content relevant to the participants who come from widely varied backgrounds, making the material understandable to individuals who do not have academic business training, and motivating the students throughout two full days.

Teaching results:
At the end of the course, each student completes a Participant Feedback Form. Every student indicated "Yes" that they would take another course with this instructor. Over 50% of participants ranked me as excellent in response to **all** of the following: knowledge of subject, organization of material, techniques in presenting the material, ability to communicate, and responsiveness to participants. 100% of the participants indicated "Yes" that overall they were satisfied with the course.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (5/10 – present)

Several times each year, I instruct PwC's tax training in their in-house continuing education program. Most of the courses I teach are comprehensive corporate tax courses (Tax 1 and Tax 2) that span an entire week. The audience for these courses consists of PwC tax professionals with 1-3 years of experience. I also occasionally teach 1-day courses, which are highly technical in nature with great depth of coverage. The audience for these courses consists of PwC tax professionals with 4-5 years of experience. In order to be renewed with the firm each year, instructors must receive exceptional ratings by course participants.

University of Wisconsin – Whitewater (part-time - 1/99 – 5/01)

As an instructor, I taught both Financial and Managerial Accounting. Because these courses are many students' first exposure to accounting, I use this opportunity to encourage my excellent students to pursue a major in accounting.

Sunstone Financial Group, Inc. (2/96-8/00)

As the Tax Manager, I was responsible for leading the tax department, which monitored the tax position of approximately 60 mutual funds. This included income and excise tax compliance, distribution calculations, and diversification testing.

Alverno College (part-time - 8/98-9/99)

As an instructor, I taught Finance in the Business and Management division. This is the students' first required course in the finance area, and it proves to be a challenge for them. Teaching this course at Alverno gave me the opportunity to utilize several different assessment techniques.

Bryant & Stratton College (part-time - 1/98-9/98)

As an instructor, I taught Introductory Accounting to non-traditional students. Because this course is required as part of the school's basic studies, none of my students were accounting majors. This course covered the basic accounting cycle including the analysis of transactions and the preparation of financial statements.

Plastic Engineered Components, Inc. (10/94-2/96)
As a Tax & Accounting Specialist, I reported directly to the Chief Financial Officer. I was responsible for overseeing the corporate tax position that included preparing federal and multi-state tax compliance, preparing the corporate tax provision, and communicating with taxing authorities during tax audits. I was also called upon to assist in a variety of projects including preparation of the annual corporate operating budget and preparation of quarterly board reports.

Price Waterhouse (9/91-12/94)
As a Tax Consultant, I was responsible for assisting a variety of clients in tax planning and reporting. These clients operated in several industries: manufacturing, non-profit, and service. I also had the opportunity to supervise and mentor several Tax Associates. In conjunction with this, I had the opportunity to teach a three-day course on individual taxation to prepare new employees for the individual income tax season.

Teaching Awards

College of Business Administration Outstanding Teacher Award	2011
University Raynor Teaching Excellence Award	2016
Brennan Family Master Teacher Award	2017

Organizational Activities/Affiliations

Beta Alpha Psi, Faculty Advisor (2006-2014)
Director of Member Relations of Institute of Management Accountants (spring 1994)
Exploit No More (Treasurer – Board of Directors) (2016 – present)
Member of Institute of Management Accountants (1993-1996)
Member of Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (since 1991)
Member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (1991-1996, 2015-present)

Presentations

Clute Institute's International Business & Economics Conference
Rethinking Retesting: Should Exams be Repeatable? January 2013
Clute Institute's International Business & Economics Conference
Time to Reflect (Again) on the Plus/Minus Grading Scheme January 2013

Publications

"The Value of Professional Organizations" - WICPA On Balance: The Magazine for Wisconsin CPAs (December 2013)

"Common Questions About the CPA Exam" – WICPA: CPA2B Magazine (2011)

"AICPA Approves Significant Changes to the CPA Exam" – WICPA On Balance: The Magazine for Wisconsin CPAs (March 2010)

Conferences

Beta Alpha Psi – Annual Meeting (August 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006)

PwC Tax and Accounting Symposium (August 2013)

Ernst & Young's Tax Educators' Symposium (October 2011)

PwC University for Faculty (Summer 2007)