UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Management Accounting

2324-1-F7702M033-F7702M115M

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with the basic concepts and fundamental skills underlying management accounting through the deepening of the company phenomenon in the systemic vision and accounting systems, reporting with a specific focus on programming and controlling activities. Students must acquire and deepen basic skills regarding management tools through the study and observation of the ways in which companies plan, control and make decisions. The student will have the necessary knowledge to investigate the business context by analyzing case studies and conducting self-assessment exercises and test. The course offers students both conceptual frameworks and examples to identifying, analyzing and understanding the key structural elements of the management accounting. Students are asked to actively participate in the learning process. The course aims to provide an understanding of the cost concept and the common methods for determining unit product costs and of the rational of budget. Finally, this course provides some introductory concepts about performance measurement models, like BalancedScoreCard (BSC).

Contents

The Management Accounting Course (6 CFU) provides competences to use information within the company. Management accounting can offer knowledge about three different pillars: planning, controlling and decision making. This course offers the possibility to acquire competences about managerial accounting and cost concepts, practical tools to calculate unit product costs through the Job-Order Costing. During the course, students can understand some practical issues about the Activity-Based Costing and the process costing. A consistent part of the course focuses on the Cost-Volume-Profit relationships and on Break Even and Target profit analysis. The last part of the course explains some issues on Master Budgeting and differential analysis. A part of the course will be focused on the performance measurement models, particularly on BSC.

Detailed program

1. -INTRODUCTION TO MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING
   1.1. An overview on managerial accounting
   1.2. Why does managerial accounting matter for the carrier?
   1.3. Different perspectives on management accounting

2. MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING AND COST CONCEPTS
   2.1. Cost classification for assigning costs to cost object
   2.2. Cost classification for manufacturing companies
   2.3. Cost classification for preparing financial statements
   2.4. Cost classification for predicting cost
   2.5. Cost classification for decision making
   2.6. Exercises and examples

3. JOB ORDER COSTING: CALCULATING UNIT COSTS
   3.1. Job order costing: an overview
   3.2. Job order costing: a managerial perspective
   3.3. Job order costing: an external reporting perspective
   3.4. Exercises and examples

4. ACTIVITY BASED COSTING
   4.1. Assigning overhead costs to products
   4.2. Designing activity-based costing system
   4.3. Using activity based costing
   4.4. Exercises and examples

5. PROCESS COSTING
   5.1. An overview on process costing
   5.2. A comparison between job order costing and process costing
   5.3. Cost flows in process costing
   5.4. Exercises and examples

6. COST-VOLUME-PROFIT RELATIONSHIP
   6.1. CVP: the determination of break even point
   6.2. CVP: target profit analysis
   6.3. CVP: exercises or cases

7. MASTER BUDGETING
   7.1. Master budgeting: an overview
   7.2. Master budgeting: preparing the master budget
   7.3. Master budgeting: summary and exercises

8. DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS
   8.1. Differential analysis: the key to decision making
   8.2. Differential analysis: Identifying relevant costs
   8.3. Differential analysis: make or buy decisions
   8.4. Marketing decisions: special orders, introduction/elimination of products/services/departments, optimal use of scarce resources

9. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT MODELS
   9.1. Performance Measurement models: an overview
   9.2. The Balanced Scorecard
   9.3. Case studies of BSC and strategic management approach

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Sessions of frontal teaching, discussion of case studies and carrying out written exercises. Participation and discussion in the classroom on current issues will be stimulated. Some seminars will be organized with practitioners.
If there will be Covid-19 emergencies, lessons may take place in a mixed mode: partial attendance and asynchronous / synchronous videotaped lessons. In this context most of the lessons may be conducted synchronously respecting the timetable of the lessons, as far as possible.

Assessment methods

During the course two intermediate tests will be carried out by written tests. The first intermediate test will cover only the first part of the program. Those who pass the first test will have access to the second intermediate test. Students who pass the two written tests can accept the grade without the oral exam. Oral exam is optional in any case. Those who do not pass the intermediate tests, decide not to support them or do not accept the grade obtained will be able to take the exam in traditional ways on the overall programme. The written exam consists of a test composed of 6 multiple choice questions (score 0 if wrong or missing, score 1, if exact), three open questions (score from 0 to 4) and 2 exercises (score from 0 to 6). In order to pass the written exam, it is necessary to obtain a minimum total score of 18. After passing the written test, the student can access the oral exam on the overall program, if he decides to do. Otherwise he can accept the grade of the written exam.
The multiple choice questions are useful to check the systematic knowledge of the course contents, the quantitative exercise is aimed at ascertaining the student's ability to use data taken from practical cases while the open questions are useful for checking the student's autonomous ability to rework concepts on specific topics.
If there will be Covid-19 emergency period, oral exams will only be online. They will be carried out using the WebEx platform and on the e-learning page of the course there will be a public link for access to the examination of possible virtual attendees.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Brewer, Garrison, Noreen, Introduction to Managerial Accounting, Eight Edition, 2019, Mc Graw Hill Education, NY
Slides
Case studies
Exercises

Semester

First semester

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION