

Things to know before you start studying accounting:

1. **Accounting cannot be memorized** – unlike some subjects like geography, sociology, and philosophy, where you can skim the textbook and get a general understanding of the topic, with accounting, you need to read the textbook to understand the concepts and why and how they are recorded. The concepts build on each other. If you are not understanding the basics of accounting, you will struggle with future concepts.
2. **Accounting has its own language** – like with learning a new language, accounting has its own terminology. The meaning behind the terms must be understood to be able to read and interpret financial statements, for example. These statements tell the users of the statements (the company, it's shareholders, or lenders) how the company is doing. Are they making money? Is it safe to loan them money or invest in the company?
3. **Accounting is similar to math** – accounting uses math to calculate and record transactions. They are similar in that both math and accounting build on concepts.

Now that we have an idea of what accounting is and isn't; let's talk about how to study accounting:

Prior to Class:

1. Review the **course outline** to see what is covered each week.
2. Download the **PowerPoint** from DC Connect and review.
3. Read the required pages from your **textbook** for the current week's lesson; this helps to set the stage for class.
 - Use the PowerPoint to guide your reading and take notes as you read.
 - Write down questions to ask your professor about the concepts that are not clear from your reading.

During Class:

1. You must **be present**:
 - attendance and participation are key to doing well in accounting.
 - watching videos or getting someone else's notes does not allow you to seek clarification on concepts you do not understand.
2. **Listen attentively** and take notes.
3. Don't be afraid to **ask questions**.

After Class:

It is easier to **keep up** than play catch up!

1. Review your notes:

- Identify concepts that you are not clear about.
- Make notes of things you want to ask the professor or SALS staff.

2. Do the assigned homework/assignments prior to the due date.

- Practice, practice, practice – with more practice you will make a stronger connection with the concepts.
- Read the problem to make sure you understand what is being asked.
- Work each problem completely.
- Problems serve to test your knowledge of the concepts.

3. Know how and when to seek help.

- Your professor is your primary contact for help. SALS is here to support you as well.

When you realize that you need help:

There are several ways to get help with this course:

1. **Your Professor** – book an appointment with your professor during their office hours.

2. SALS Supports

- Learning Skills Advisor
 - i. Book a weekly 50-minute appointment by emailing sals@durhamcollege.ca
 - ii. Attend weekly tutorials – a listing of available tutorials can be found on the homepage in your course or on SALS ONLINE – Business / Accounting on DC Connect.
- SALS ONLINE – Business / Accounting (found on DC Connect). This unit has handouts, videos, quizzes and practice tests.
- Peer Tutoring – apply for an appointment with a Peer Tutor. Instructions to access this service is found on SALS ONLINE.

3. **Your Textbook** – know how to use your textbook.

- McGraw Hill Connect – contains videos, solutions to certain questions and has an audio feature where text can be read to you.
- AME Engage – contains videos and quizzes to check your knowledge.