



CPA PREPARATORY COURSES  
**SYLLABUS**

Introductory Financial Accounting  
for Indigenous Learners

## Course Overview

### Course description

Introductory Financial Accounting is the first financial accounting course of the CPA Canada preparatory courses. This course is an integrated introduction to accounting principles and practices. It is designed to help you to begin to understand accounting information and gain an appreciation for its uses and limitations.

Introductory Financial Accounting for Indigenous Learners incorporates Indigenous culture and context. The course is developed by Indigenous subject matter experts, taught by Indigenous instructors, and supported by Indigenous facilitators.

### Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Resources

See the Student Guide for a comprehensive list of course resources.

### Course objectives

- Describe the basic principles of accounting, distinguishing between financial and managerial accounting, and the common types of business organizations in Canada.
- Identify the main functions of accounting within an organization, and explore the range of CPA career paths related to these functions.
- Apply fundamental concepts in the recognition and measurement of financial elements and demonstrate an understanding of the underlying assumptions and constraints.
- Determine the ethical standards required in financial reporting, explain the impact of biases, and utilize The CPA Way to evaluate and resolve basic ethical dilemmas.
- Apply the steps of the accounting cycle to record financial transactions, culminating in the preparation of a basic set of financial statements.
- Analyze and manage key elements of working capital, including cash, receivables, and inventory. Demonstrate an understanding of internal controls by describing their importance in safeguarding assets and ensuring the integrity of financial information.
- Prepare a bank reconciliation and the journal entries required from the bank reconciliation process.
- Analyze a basic set of financial statements using key ratios, and interpret the results.
- Describe the importance, elements, and objectives of accounting information systems in business.

## Course Outline

The following topics are covered in the course:

### Unit 1

- Definition of accounting, users, types of organizations, and careers in accounting
- Objective of financial reporting and the role of accounting standard setters to assist financial statement preparers to support this objective
- Cash-based and accrual-based accounting, and the assumptions and conventions that support financial reporting principles
- Ethics and financial reporting, including how to approach ethical issues by applying professional judgment and The CPA Way
- The accounting equation
- The accounting cycle, including the recording of journal entries, posting to the general ledger, and using this information to prepare a trial balance and a set of financial statements

### Unit 2

- Required financial statements under ASPE, including the balance sheet, income statement, and components of shareholders' equity
- IFRS and ASPE differences for financial statements

### Unit 3

- Financial reporting for cash and cash equivalents, including ASPE and IFRS differences
- Internal controls and how they relate to cash in an organization
- Financial reporting for accounts receivable, also known as trade receivables, including ASPE and IFRS differences
- Financial reporting for notes receivable, including ASPE and IFRS differences

## Unit 4

- Inventory accounting systems: perpetual and periodic
- Financial reporting for inventories, including ASPE and IFRS differences
- Investments, including the types of investments and investors and accounting for investments
- Financial reporting for property, plant, and equipment, including ASPE and IFRS differences

## Unit 5

- Financial reporting of current and non-current liabilities, including ASPE and IFRS differences
- Financial reporting for current income taxes
- Basic objectives, components, and uses of information technology in accounting
- Various types of and uses for financial statement analysis

## Course Schedule and Reading List

The following outlines the course schedule and assigned readings from the Introductory Financial Accounting textbook.

### In-Person Learning Sessions

- Opening Session
- Learning Session 1
- Learning Session 2
- Learning Session 3
- Learning Session 4
- Closing Session

*Dates for the in-person learning sessions will be communicated by your regional/provincial CPA body.*

### Unit 1

- Chapter 1 — Accounting Today
- Chapter 2 — Accounting Principles, Assumptions, and Concepts
- Chapter 3 — Ethics and Financial Reporting
- Chapter 4 — The Accounting Equation
- Chapter 5 — The Accounting Cycle

### Unit 2

- Chapter 6 — Financial Statements — Introduction
- Chapter 7 — Financial Statements — Balance Sheet
- Chapter 8 — Financial Statements — Income Statement
- Chapter 9 — Financial Statements — Shareholders' Equity

### Unit 3

- Chapter 10 — Cash and Cash Equivalents
- Chapter 11 — Internal Controls and Cash
- Chapter 12 — Accounts Receivable
- Chapter 13 — Notes Receivable

## Unit 4

- Chapter 14 — Inventory Accounting Systems
- Chapter 15 — Inventory
- Chapter 16 — Understanding Investments
- Chapter 17 — Property, Plant, and Equipment

## Unit 5

- Chapter 18 — Liabilities
- Chapter 19 — Current Income Taxes
- Chapter 20 — Information Technology in Accounting — Overview
- Chapter 21 — Financial Statement Analysis