



School of Accounting
& Corporate Governance

Honours Booklet

2009

WELCOME

The Head of School, Dr Sue Hrasky, welcomes you to the Bachelor of Business with Honours [B.Bus (Hons)]. The honours program offers enormous benefits in terms of enhanced career prospects, opportunities for postgraduate studies, and personal development. Many of Australia's current business leaders are honours graduates, and there is no doubt that the honours program provides graduates with a competitive edge for those seeking employment. Honours graduates are also more likely to fast-track their career advancement than their pass degree colleagues. Employers hold graduates from the program in high regard by and they have secured employment in significant positions that would not have been available to pass degree students. Past honours graduates are now employed in senior positions in the research, profession and industry.

The staff and I wish you success in your studies with us in the honours program and look forward to a future of life-long learning with you.

Dr Sue Hrasky
Head – School of Accounting and Corporate Governance
16 February 2009

School Mission Statement

The School of Accounting and Corporate Governance is committed to providing excellence in teaching and research in the areas of accounting, corporate governance and related areas. The School intends to be seen as a dynamic and flexible force within the university, faculty and within the community it serves. Basic to this is the provision of excellence in teaching and learning, and in research in accounting and in corporate governance.

Goals and Objectives:

The goals and objectives of the School are to:

1. Secure a national and international reputation for scholarship that will guarantee a permanent place for the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance among Australia's best;
2. Offer a dynamic and cutting edge teaching and learning environment to support our students;
3. Ensure our students exhibit the qualities required by the profession and the business community for entry to the work force;
4. Embrace the lifelong learning needs of our students throughout their professional lives;
5. Encourage the development of a research culture that focuses on current issues and actively supports the business and professional community;
6. Encourage and support excellent basic and applied research and research training;
7. Ensure that the link between teaching and learning and research is actively incorporated into our teaching programs;
8. Seek to actively link with the business and professional community;
9. Work collaboratively with other parts of the faculty and university;
10. Be seen as a major player in the global market place in the areas of teaching and learning, and research;
11. Offer an environment in which staff and students are able to work in harmony;
12. Maintain a lifelong association with its graduates;
13. Make important, distinctive and excellent contributions to the community, industry, government and scholarly communities; and
14. Give practical expression to its role by making important, distinctive and excellent contributions to learning in fields of study in accounting and corporate accountability of particular relevance to Tasmania.

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INTRODUCTION

Honours Program

The School offers an honours program in the areas of accounting and corporate governance. Honours classes are small, usually seminar style, and feature lively debate about contemporary issues. To date the B.Bus (Hons) program has been extremely successful and it is considered an important part of the School's teaching and research activities. Its importance is reflected in the School Strategic Plan.

What is the honours year?

Course Objectives

The aim of the honours year is to enable students to develop their interests and research skills further and to provide a foundation for postgraduate study in business and for careers requiring advanced levels of knowledge and research skills.

Course Duration

The honours degree is offered at the Hobart campus for one year full-time or two years part-time in the fields of accounting and corporate governance. The 2009 course is offered only on the Hobart Campus.

BFA499 Bachelor of Commerce with Honours full-time

Full-time candidates take all parts of the course in one academic year.

BFA498 Bachelor of Commerce with Honours part-time

The course is divided between two consecutive academic years in the case of part-time candidates.

ADMISSION & PRE-REQUISITES

How do I apply?

Admission to the course is a Bachelor of Business (or equivalent approved qualification) with an average of distinction or higher in at least 50% of the final year units of a completed undergraduate degree.

Application

Applications for enrolment, together with appropriate evidence of academic qualifications as required, are to be made in writing on the prescribed form and submitted to Student Administration by the specified closing date. This date varies from year to year. Applicants should contact the Honours Program Co-ordinator, William Maguire at William.Maguire@utas.edu.au or Tel: 03 6226 2277.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE HONOURS PROGRAM

Where do I find more information?

Information about all honours courses in the University of Tasmania may be obtained from the University's website: <http://www.prospective.utas.edu.au/postgraduate.php?section=5>. (Note: The section relating to honours students is at the bottom of the web page).

Further details concerning the honours program may be obtained from the Honours Program or from the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 86, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.

Telephone: 03 6226 2277
Or 03 6226 2266 (School office)
Facsimile: 03 6226 7845 (*Int +61 3 6226 7845*)

COURSE EMPHASIS

What will the course do for me?

The B.Bus (Hons) program provides graduates with the opportunity to pursue a fourth year of advanced study in accounting, corporate governance, and related disciplines, and to develop a capacity to undertake independent, scholarly research. The program endeavours to impart additional knowledge and skills at a level beyond that of the undergraduate Bachelor of Business program. It involves research that is at the cutting edge of disciplinary scholarship and emphasises the acquisition and development of knowledge in accounting, corporate governance and related disciplines.

Course Objectives

The aim of the honours program is to enable you to develop your academic interests and research skills further, and to provide a foundation for postgraduate study in business and for careers requiring advanced levels of knowledge and research skills.

What will I take from the course?

On completion of Specific objectives of the B.Bus (Hons) program you should be able to:

- evaluate the contribution of research to the development of practice in accounting, corporate governance and related disciplines;
- evaluate research in the discipline area;
- identify research topics and apply appropriate research methods;
- undertake independent research and scholarship;
- apply the principles of ethical research conduct to your research;
- report and publish research outcomes; and
- proceed to appropriate higher degree studies.

Study Dates

When do I study?

Teaching dates are available from the Honours Program Co-ordinator or from the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 86, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.

Telephone: 03 6226 2277
Or 03 6226 2266 (School office)

Facsimile: 03 6226 7845 (*Int +61 3 6226 7845*)

Teaching Methods

How will I study?

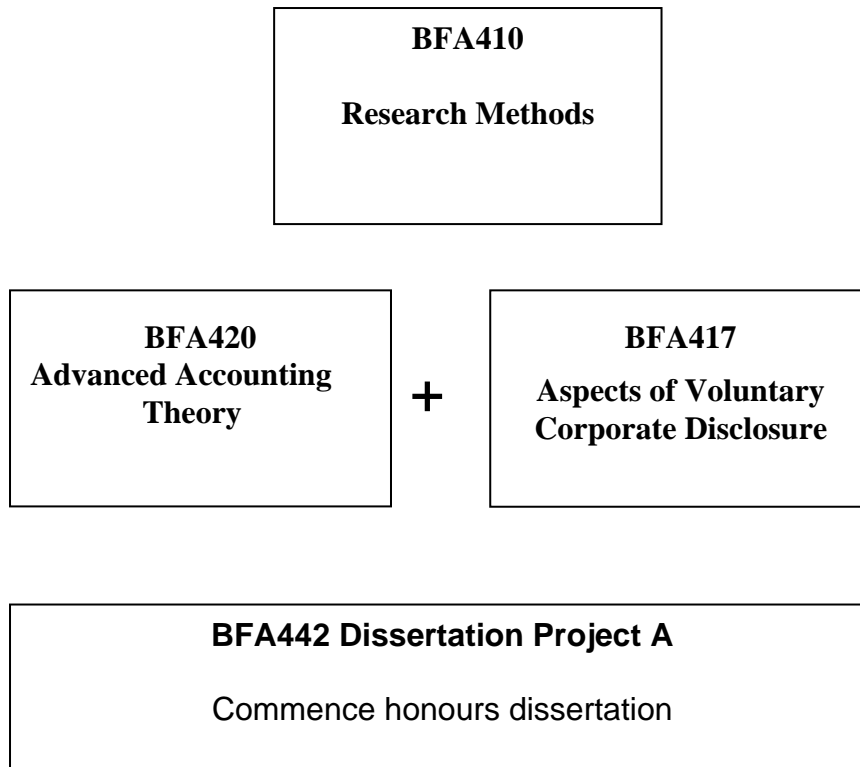
Teaching methods include seminars, library research, enquiries, surveys, presentations and discussions with fellow students, lecturers and supervisor(s).

COURSE STRUCTURE

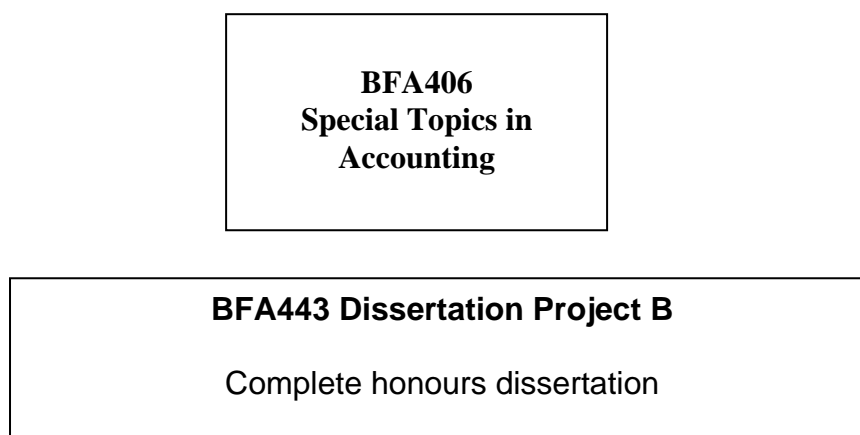
Course outline (EXAMPLE Full Time Semester 1&2)

What will I study?

Semester 1

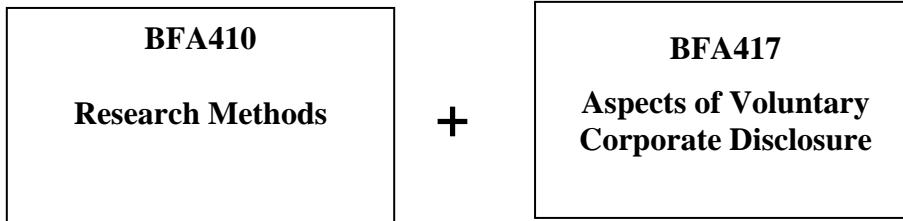


Semester 2

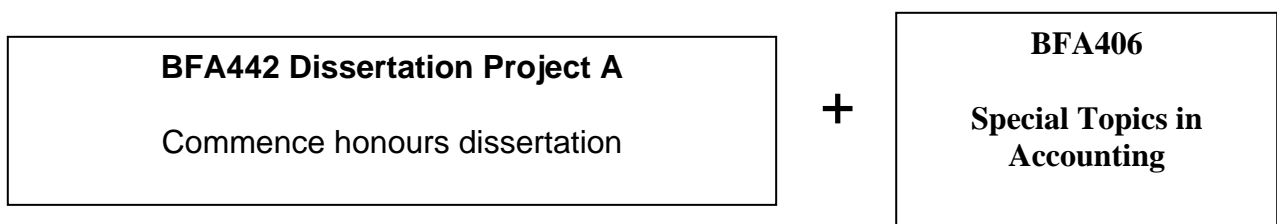


Course outline (EXAMPLE Part Time structure)

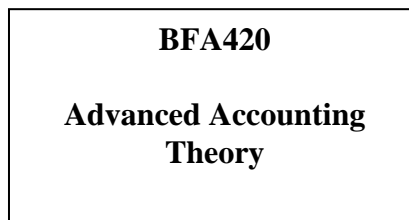
Semester 1 (Year 1)



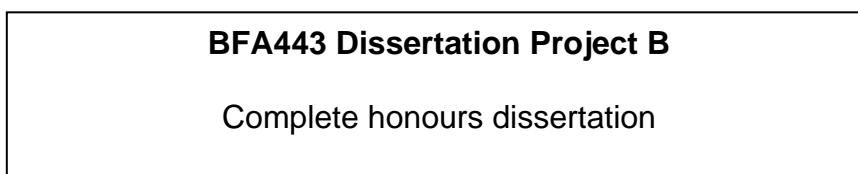
Semester 2 (Year 1)



Semester 1 (Year 2)



Semester 2 (Year 2)



Course work

You are required to complete BFA410 Research Methods and the three units below followed by a dissertation.

EITHER		
Unit	Title	Weight
BFA406	Special Topics in Accounting	12.5%
BFA417	Aspects of Voluntary Corporate Disclosure	12.5%
BFA420	Advanced Accounting Theory	12.5%

OR

at least two units from the above and one unit offered by another School in the university, subject to the permission of the Head of School

AND, in either case,

BFA442	Dissertation A	12.5%
BFA443	Dissertation B	37.5%

Assessment of research ability occurs in the assessment of the four units and the dissertation.

Research Seminars and Forums

Candidates are required to participate in School research seminars and research forums. The research seminar program is available from the School office.

Details of Units

The content of some of the units currently offered in the B.Bus (Hons) program is provided in detail in **Appendix A**. In each case an overview, objectives, reference material, method of instruction, and assessment methods and weightings are provided where applicable. Within prescribed limits the content of units may be amended annually to reflect current developments and remain topical.

Course work subjects

ASSESSMENT

Performance

Performing well in this course requires regular effort to complete and understand the readings. You need to study the assigned readings before coming to class. If possible, read some of the supplementary readings. Honours level study requires logical thought processes. Until you understand the relevant principles, it is difficult to reason through the issues raised within the literature in a particular discipline. It is not possible to “survive” this course by simply skimming the readings or by memorising them. It is important that you also understand their content.

What do I need to do to complete the subjects?

Coursework Units

Several methods are used to assess students in their coursework units. Each method is selected to measure student performance in a unit and to indicate achievement of specific unit objectives. The assessments may be formative or summative in nature. The following types of assessment are commonly used:

- open and closed book exams
- written assignments and critiques
- presentations
- participation in seminars
- computing assignment work

Hons Seminar Participation

*What do I
need to do in
the
seminars?*

Students are sometimes confused about how to obtain a high mark for seminar participation. Below are some points which are useful to consider when discussing issues in the seminar.

- (i) Are your points especially pertinent to the discussion? Do they increase the understanding of the class or are they merely a paraphrasing of the problem or readings?
- (ii) Is there continuity in your contributions or are the comments disjointed and isolated? The best class contributions are those that reflect excellent preparation, good listening, and interpretive and integrative skills.
- (iii) Do your comments reflect a willingness to put forth new, challenging ideas or are they always agreeable and "safe"?
- (iv) Are you able and willing to interact with others by asking questions, providing supportive comments or challenging in a constructive manner what has been said?

You must participate in seminars in order to share ideas. However, it is not necessary to contribute a great deal in every class. Many of the best contributors in advanced seminars only speak several times per seminar, but their contributions are insightful and persuasive. The issue is one of quality and not quantity. Participation will be formally evaluated in the following manner:

Contribution to Seminar

Outstanding Contributor

This person's contributions reflect exceptional preparation. The ideas offered are always substantive and provide major insights and direction for the class. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of the discussions would diminish significantly.

Good Contributor

Contributions in class reflect thorough preparation. Ideas offered are usually substantive, provide good insights and sometimes lead the direction of the class. Arguments are generally well thought out and often persuasive. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussions would diminish considerably.

Adequate Contributor

Contributions in class reflect satisfactory preparation. Ideas offered are sometimes substantive, provide useful insights, but seldom offer a major new direction for the discussion. Contributions tend to be somewhat more piecemeal than integrative. Arguments are sometimes presented and are fairly well substantiated and sometimes persuasive. If the person were not a member of the class, the quality of the discussions would diminish somewhat.

Non-participant

This person has said very little or nothing in seminars to date. Hence, there is an inadequate basis for evaluation. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of the discussion would not be changed.

Unsatisfactory Contributor

Contribution in class reflects inadequate preparation. Ideas offered are seldom substantive and provide few, if any, insights and never a constructive direction for the class. Integrative comments and effective arguments are absent. Class comments are either obvious, isolated from the main discussion or confusing to the class.

Dissertation

All students are required to complete an honours dissertation which is in a form and on a topic approved by the Head of School and the Honours Program Coordinator. For a dissertation you are required to select a research topic, carry out supervised research on the chosen topic, using appropriate research methods, and complete a written report. Approval of topics will depend on both the research interests of the School and the availability of adequate supervision in various academic areas.

What is the dissertation?

Students should refer to the Specifications of Units and Seminars Currently Offered, **Appendix A**, for further information, and to the Code of Conduct in Supervision, available on the University's website: http://www.research.utas.edu.au/gr/policies/docs/code_conduct_supervision.doc (the School adheres to those provisions of the Code that are relevant to the B.Bus (Hons) degree).

Overall Grade

A candidate for a Bachelor's degree with Honours who has reached a required standard of proficiency may, on the recommendation of the Head of School to the Dean, and the Dean's acceptance of this, be awarded honours with one of the following grades:

What mark will I get at the end?

- First Class
- Second Class, Upper Division
- Second Class, Lower Division
- Third Class

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for graduation a student must successfully complete all components of the course. Students should refer to the course details and degree specifications (see above).

RESOURCES

Staff

Details of Academic and General staff in the School, are contained in **Appendix B**. Further information is available from the School's website: <http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/business/accg/>

Who or what is available to help me in my course?

Facilities

The School is located on both the Hobart and Launceston Campuses. In Hobart the School can be found on the fourth and fifth levels of the Commerce and Economics Building and adjacent annexe, Sandy Bay campus. On the Launceston Campus the Faculty and Schools can be accessed in Building A. On both campuses students have access to the building during normal hours of opening and to car parking facilities. Facsimile, photocopying and printing facilities, for the purpose of research, are available to honours students in the School Mail Room (fifth level), Hobart and in a dedicated resource room on the Launceston Campus.

Scholarships

The application dates for all scholarships for honours program studies fall within the year prior to entry to the honours program. [Applications for 2009 close 31 October, 2008]

In some years scholarships are available to exemplary pass graduates who wish to undertake honours study at the University of Tasmania. Students intending to undertake an honours course who have achieved outstanding results at university may be eligible for a scholarship subject to availability. Selection is based largely on university results and the reports of two academic referees.

Information concerning availability of scholarships may be obtained from the Tasmania Scholarships Office, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252-40, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

Telephone: 03 6226 2879 (Int +61 3 262879)

Freecall: 1800 064 395 during office hours

Facsimile: 03 6226 2018 (Int +61 3 262018)

Email: Tas.Scholarships@utas.edu.au

Information may also be available through the University's website at:
http://www.scholarshipsutas.edu.au/scm_menu.php?sm=3.

Details of availability of awards for international candidates may be obtained from:

Enquiries Officer, International Admissions and Exchanges,
University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252-38, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

Telephone: 03 6226 2706 (*Int +61 3 6226 2706*)

Facsimile: 03 6226 7862 (*Int +61 3 6226 7862*)

Email: International.Office@utas.edu.au

Home Page: <http://www.international.utas.edu.au>

Casual/Contract Employment Opportunities

The School will provide information on opportunities to participate in marking and/or tutoring in the School. Where funding is available the School also makes available a small number of cadetships (short term contracts) for those students who are interested in considering an academic career.

University Library

The University Library collects print, electronic and audio visual materials to support University courses. A good collection of journals relevant to the honours program is held at the library. Students are encouraged to use the full range of library resources (production of a student ID card is required).

COURSE MONITORING - Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning (SETL)

As part of the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning program, students are asked to complete a questionnaire in respect of each unit undertaken. Responses to the questionnaire help to provide feedback on the units. Students are not required to give their name, and comments are treated as entirely confidential and anonymous. Once completed, the questionnaire is returned to the academic staff member ordering the evaluation.

If you have any questions regarding the SETL process please contact Michele Groombridge at the SETL Office, Student Administration on (03) 62 262057 or Michele.Groombridge@utas.edu.au

APPENDIX A

SPECIFICATIONS OF UNITS

***BFA442 and BFA443
Dissertation A&B***

1. OVERVIEW

The dissertation units have a combined 50% weighting in the degree. This unit will require students to undertake a piece of independently conducted research. To complete the dissertation successfully, students are required to select a research topic, carry out supervised research on the chosen topic using appropriate research methods, and complete a written dissertation. Students will also deliver an oral presentation and defence of their research.

2. OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

1. develop a research proposal;
2. establish and plan the appropriate steps in conducting rigorous research into an area of interest;
3. schedule the conduct of research in relation to a project of interest;
4. collect data and statistically analyse it in relation to a research question of interest;
5. write a thorough, scholarly research paper outlining the theory development, research design, research methods and results in relation to a particular research question of interest; and
6. provide a professional, oral presentation of a research project and its findings.

3. THE DISSERTATION

A dissertation proposal is to be developed for approval

- for full time candidates by the beginning of semester 2, and
- for part-time candidates by the end of semester 2.

A dissertation supervisor will be appointed when a candidate has decided upon an area of study. Candidates must maintain regular contact with the supervisor and keep the supervisor informed of proposed work and progress in carrying out work on the dissertation. Each student will be expected to give a short workshop presentation of the dissertation proposal (this may occur in conjunction with the presentations for the Research Methods course in semester 1).

The supervisor/student relationship is very important. For this reason, the University's Code of Conduct in Supervision should be observed at all times by both the supervisor and the student. While this has been prepared for Postgraduate Masters and Ph.D programs the School adheres to those provisions that are also relevant to the B.Bus (Hons) degree.

The dissertation component of the program includes a half-hour oral review which will be scheduled in early November in the year the dissertation is submitted.

Format For a Dissertation

Your dissertation will normally be in the vicinity of 15,000 words and have the following parts:

1. A Face Page

Title
A thesis submitted to the
By:
Date:
Supervisor:

2. Statement of Originality of the Work

3. Acknowledgements

4. Abstract (about 500 words maximum)

5. Table of Contents

6. Chapters:

- **Introduction**
- **Literature Review and Hypothesis Development**
- **Research Method**
- **Results**
- **Discussion and Analysis**
- **Conclusion**
- **References**
- **Appendices**

APPENDIX B

ACADEMIC AND GENERAL STAFF

School of Accounting and Corporate Governance – Academic Staff

Name & Position Title	Location	Phone	Email
Hrasky, Sue Dr Head of School	H	+61 3 6226 2280	Sue.Hrasky@utas.edu.au
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Bingham, Simone Mrs Lecturer	H	+61 3 6226 2314	Simone.Binghan@utas.edu.au
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Chaplin, Sally Mrs Associate Lecturer	L	+61 3 6324 3697	Sally.Chaplin@utas.edu.au
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Wilmshurst, Trevor Associate Professor	L	+61 3 6324 3570	Trevor.Wilmshurst@utas.edu.au

School of Accounting and Corporate Governance – General Staff

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Robinson, Dee Mrs Administrative Assistant	L	+61 3 6324 3088	Dee.Robinson@utas.edu.au
Siely, Adriana Mrs Executive Assistant (Wed-Fri)	H	+61 3 6226 2266	Adriana.Siely@utas.edu.au

H = Hobart

L= Launceston

C=Cradle Coast