

Academic Year/course: 2022/23

27434 - Public Sector Accounting

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2022/23

Subject: 27434 - Public Sector Accounting

Faculty / School: 109 - Facultad de Economía y Empresa

Degree: 417 - Degree in Economics

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 3

Semester: First semester

Subject Type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

1.1. Aims of the course

The course and its expected results correspond to the following objectives:

- The student will learn how to account for the most frequent operations in public administrations in the framework of the Spanish legislation (based on the International Public Sector Accounting Standards-IPSAS of the IFAC) and, particularly, the Public Sector Chart of Accounts.
- The student will learn the phases of Expenditure and Revenue Budgetary execution in public entities.
- The student will learn the main differences in the accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment, Liabilities and Equity and other operations compared with business accounting.
- The student will understand the annual accounts of public administrations.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>), so that the acquisition of the learning outcomes of the subject provides training and competence to contribute to some extent to their achievement:

4.4 Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have the necessary skills, particularly technical and vocational, to access employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

16.6 Create effective and transparent and accountable institutions at all levels.

1.2. Context and importance of this course in the degree

After passing a course on accounting during the first part of the degree, in which the basic concepts and accounting method have been studied, this public sector accounting course studies the Spanish Accounting legislation, and, particularly, the Public Sector Chart of Accounts which is based on the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) of the IFAC. Therefore, this course complements the training of the student and qualifies him/her to perform successfully in broader frameworks than business, thus opening up new possibilities of employment.

1.3. Recommendations to take this course

This course is addressed to students interested in issues related to financial information and the management of public administrations. Attending classes facilitates the learning process, especially in those in which the use of governmental accounting software encourages the motivation of students. Previous knowledge from the financial accounting courses of the degree is a sufficient basis for successfully following this course.

2. Learning goals

2.1. Competences

Particular competences:

E1. To direct and manage organizations.

E2. To understand the operations of any of the functional areas of public entities and to perform any management activity successfully.

E5. To submit reports about specific situations related to public administration activities and their functional areas.

Cross-competences:

T1.b. Ability to analyse and synthesise

T1.c. Ability to organise and plan

T4.a. Ability to apply the knowledge in practice.

2.2. Learning goals

1. To know the differences between public sector accounting and business accounting, as public administrations are non-profit entities.

2. To know the most outstanding differences between the Public Sector Chart of Accounts (Plan General de Contabilidad Pública (PGCP)) and the Business Chart of Accounts (Plan General de Contabilidad (PGC)).

3. To practice with public sector accounting software used by local governments to learn how operations are actually recorded by public administrations.

4. To account for the main operations of the Expenditure Budget of public administrations.

5. To account for the main operations of the Revenue Budget of public administrations.

6. To account for the operations of Property, Plant and Equipment and Liabilities of public administrations.

7. To measure the funding deviations in earmarked funds.

8. To know the Financial Report of public administrations.

2.3. Importance of learning goals

As this subject is taught in the last years of the degree, it focuses on the improvement of the students' training for accessing the labour market. The contents of the subject are a suitable complement to the previous training in financial accounting, adding specific knowledge about the management of public administrations.

3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1. Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

1. The student will demonstrate the achievement of the expected learning outcomes through the following continuous assessment activities:

Theoretical ^{*} written tests in class (50% of the total score), practices in class (30%) and practices in the computer room (20%).

All the students have the right to take the official first semester exam. This exam will be made up of two parts: a theoretical and a practical part. The contribution of each part to the final score will be 50%.

2. In the second sitting (June), the final score will be the score obtained in this exam. This exam will consist of two parts: a theoretical and a practical part. The contribution of each part to the final score will be 50%. * The theoretical part may include illustrative examples.

Measurement criteria

The precision and clarity of the answers, their thoroughness, correct, clear and ordered reasoning and command of the terminology will be taken into account in the exams as well as, in the practical parts, the accuracy of the results. The minimum grade to compensate between tests will be of 4.

These tests are expected to be carried out in person but if the health circumstances require :

In the case of online assessment, it is important to highlight that, in any test, the student https://protecciondatos.unizar.es/sites/protecciondatos.unizar.es/files/users/lopd/gdocencia_1

The necessary software will be used to check the originality of the activities carried out. The detection of plagiarism or copying in an activity will imply the rating of 0 points in it.

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

The learning process designed for this course is as follows:

The subject is taught through theoretical and practical classes. When necessary, practical groups will be split. The PC practices will be carried out in the PC rooms. As public sector accounting is an essentially practical topic, even the theoretical classes have a practical approach.

4.2. Learning tasks

The programme offered to students to help them achieve the expected outcomes includes the following activities:

The 60 hours of teaching activities are distributed in 30 hours of teacher explanation and discussion of the different contents of the programme and 30 hours of student practices with illustrative examples in the classroom and in the PC room.

- 1) Theoretical classes: the teacher will present the topic, highlighting the main issues in order to help the students to study the subject. The participation of students will be encouraged by discussing current examples and issues. The references included in the bibliography are available in the faculty library.
- 2) Practical classes: a set of illustrative examples will be solved. The text of these examples will be available before solving them in class in the ADD and in the reprography department.
- 3) PC practices: aimed at introducing the student to the use of public sector accounting software widely used in the local governments of Spain.
- 4) Tutorship: Available so that students can ask their tutors individual questions. Email questions will also be attended.

The teaching methodology is planned to be face-to-face. However, if necessary for health reasons, the face-to-face classes may be taught online.

4.3. Syllabus

Lesson 1: Public Sector Accounting. Introduction.

Lesson 2: Accounting for the Budget of Expenditures (I): The accounting scheme of the Year Budget.

Lesson 3: Accounting for the Budget of Expenditures (II).

Lesson 4: Accounting for the Budget of Revenues (I): The accounting scheme of the Year Budget.

Lesson 5: Accounting for the Budget of Revenues (II).

Lesson 6: Accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment and Liabilities.

Lesson 7: Accounting for non-Budgetary transactions and Earmarked Expenditures.

Lesson 8: The Annual Accounts in Public Administrations.

4.4. Course planning and calendar

The schedule of the classes and the PC practices will be published in the Faculty website and/or the Anillo Digital Docente (ADD). The other activities will be announced by the teacher well in advance.

Activities and key dates will be published at the beginning of the first semester. The exam dates can be found in the website of the faculties where the degree is offered.

An optional partial control will be carried out before Christmas. The control will encompass around 75% of the program (see evaluation section).