

ACCOUNTING 1



Accounting Basics

Accounting Standards

- Accounting principles have been in existence since the late 1400s when devised by Luca Pacioli, an Italian mathematician, and have evolved over time.
- Modern-day accounting principles in the United States are called **generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)**; these principles guide the work of accountants and auditors.
- The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has regulatory authority over accounting principles used by public corporations.
 - The SEC is a federal agency responsible for enforcing the federal securities laws and regulating the securities industry.
 - It delegates the responsibility for the development of GAAP to the accounting profession via the **Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)**.
- The FASB develops new standards via due process activities that allow input from accountants and executives in business and industry.
- The **International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)** develops global accounting standards.
 - Multinational companies follow IASB standards.
 - The IASB works with other key global accounting standards bodies to create a single source of accounting standards.
- The **Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB)** sets state and local government standards for accounting.
 - The GASB is a private, non-governmental organization subject to oversight and funding by the **Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF)**.
 - The federal government follows standards set by the FASB when performing accounting for its units.

Concepts & Principles

- Entity concept**
 - An organization stands apart from other organizations as a separate economic unit.
 - Assets and obligations must be accounted for separately from the personal resources and obligations of its owners.
- Going concern concept (G.C.C. continuity assumption)**: The entity will continue to operate long enough to meet its contractual obligations and carry out plans.
 - Time period concept**
 - Businesses should report information at regular intervals.
 - Annual reports show income for the last 12 months and end on the last day of the fiscal year; therefore, annual reports show the financial position as of the last day of the fiscal year.
 - Public companies report based on quarterly (3-month) time intervals.
- Reliability principle**
 - Accounting records must be based on the most reliable data available.
 - Reliable information is accurate, objective (unbiased), and verifiable.
- Relevance principle**
 - Accounting information must be timely.
 - Accounting information is predictive, provides feedback, and helps decision makers.
- Cost principle**: Assets and services acquired are recorded at actual, historical cost rather than current value.
- Conservation**
 - Care must be exercised to avoid overstating assets and revenues and understating expenses and liabilities.
 - Accounting estimates should be based on conservative assumptions.
- Revenue principle**
 - Revenue should only be recorded when earned.
 - Revenue is earned when the business has completed rendering services to the customer.
 - The amount to record is equal to the cash value of services or goods.
 - The collection of cash must be reasonably assured on credit sales.
- Matching principle**
 - Expenses must be matched against revenues in the same accounting period.
 - Costs incurred to generate revenues in a period are recognized as expenses.
- The accounting period**
 - The accounting period is the period covered by the income statement.
 - It is usually 1 year ending on Dec. 31 (when the fiscal year is the calendar year).
 - The fiscal year can end on any other date of the year chosen by management.
- Cash-basis accounting**
 - The impact of events is not recognized until cash is paid or received.
 - Revenue is recorded when cash is received; expenses are recorded when cash is paid.
 - This method is adequate for small companies that don't report to external parties, but it is not acceptable under GAAP.
- Accrual-basis accounting**
 - The impact of events is recognized as they occur.
 - Revenue is recorded when earned; expenses are recorded when incurred.
 - Transactions are recorded even when cash has not been received or paid.
 - This method is required by GAAP.

The Accounting Equation

$$\text{Assets} = \text{Liabilities} + \text{Owners' Equity}$$

1. Assets

- A. Assets are economic resources expected to benefit the company in the future; they result from past transactions.**
- Cash**: Money, certificates of deposit, and checks.
 - Accounts receivable**: Oral or implied promises; usually arise from sales made to customers where no promissory note exists.
 - Notes receivable**: Promissory notes; a signed note usually with payment stipulations such as time period and interest rate.
 - Inventory**: Merchandise the entity holds or manufactures to sell.
 - Supplies**: Assets used in the everyday running of the business; examples include office and cleaning supplies.
 - Prepaid expenses**: Expenditures for goods and services to be received in the future.
 - Land**: Property the business owns and uses in operations.
 - Buildings**: Cost of an office, warehouse, garage, etc.
 - Equipment, furniture, and fixtures**: Cost of office and store equipment.
- B. Assets are listed on the balance sheet in order of liquidity.**
- C. Assets are listed according to current versus long-term status.**
- Liabilities**: Economic obligations or debts; probable sacrifices of assets resulting from past transactions.
 - Accounts payable**: Oral or implied promises to pay debts that arise from credit purchases.
 - Notes payable**: Amounts the company must pay as a result of signing a promissory note for goods or services.
 - Taxes payable**: Wages and salaries payable.
 - Unearned revenues**: Money received for services not yet fulfilled or products not yet delivered; examples include cash received for airline tickets (flights not yet flown), subscriptions (magazines not yet delivered), or season tickets (games not yet played).
 - Owners' equity**: Claims held by owners; the difference between assets and liabilities; divided into two main categories.
 - Contributed or paid-in capital**: Amounts invested in the corporation by its owners.
 - Par value stock**: The value printed on a share certificate; generally a small, arbitrary value.
 - Paid-in capital in excess of par**: The total amount of capital raised in a sale of stock, less the par value of that stock.
 - EC**: 1,000 shares of \$2 par value stock sold for \$10 per share; paid-in capital in excess of par would be \$8,000 (total capital of \$10,000 less \$2,000 of par value).
 - Retained earnings**: Income earned from operations.
 - Expenses**: Decreases in retained earnings resulting from operations.
 - Revenues**: Increases in retained earnings resulting from operations.
 - Dividends**: Distributions of assets to shareholders; decreases in retained earnings.
 - Change in retained earnings**: Beginning Retained Earnings + Net Income (or - Net Loss) - Dividends.

Financial Statements: Formal Reports of an Entity

Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position)

- Assets are balanced with the sum of liabilities and owners' equity as of a specific date.
- Prepared after the income statement and the statement of retained earnings.
- Current assets**
 - Cash and other resources expected to be cash, sold, or used up during the normal operating cycle of the business (usually 1 year).
 - Typical current assets: Cash, receivables, inventories, investments, supplies, and prepaid expenses.
- Noncurrent assets**
 - Assets that are not current assets.
 - Typical noncurrent assets: Buildings, equipment, furniture, fixtures, land, natural resources, and intangible assets (patents and goodwill).
- Current liabilities**
 - Obligations that will be paid within the operating cycle (usually 1 year).
 - Typical current liabilities: Accounts payable, wages and salaries payable, taxes payable, unearned revenues, and short-term notes payable.
- Noncurrent liabilities**
 - Liabilities that are not current liabilities.
 - Typical noncurrent liabilities: The noncurrent portion of any payable liabilities, capital leases, pension benefit obligations, and long-term obligations under product or service warranties.
- Equity**
 - The difference between assets and liabilities.
 - Typical equity: Capital contributed by owners and retained earnings.

Company Balance Sheet for Year Ended Dec. 31, 200X

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash		\$58,280
Accounts receivable	\$0,300	
Allowance for doubtful accounts	3,100	57,200
Notes receivable		8,000
Merchandise inventory		58,000
Prepaid insurance		5,000
Total current assets		\$172,880

Basic Accounting Study Guide

Huangqi Zhang



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