

**Fermanian School of Business
MSA PLO #M1 Assessment
2024-2025**

Learning Outcome:

MSA PLO #M1: Exhibit advanced knowledge of accounting.

Outcome Measure:

Peregrine Graduate Accounting Advanced Topic Exit Exam

Criteria for Success:

Score at or above TBD on the Graduate Accounting Advanced Topic Exit Exam.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

Graduate Accounting Advanced Topic Exit Exam - Average Student Score:

Semester	N ¹	Score
Summer 2025	22	57.10

¹ Number of Students Taking Test

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The Master of Science in Accounting program at PLNU launched in Fall 2024, with its first cohort graduating in Summer 2025.

The criteria for success will be set after data is collected for a few years.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Data will continue to be collected and monitored in future semesters.

Fermanian School of Business
MSA PLO #M2 Assessment
2024-2025

Learning Outcome:

MSA PLO #M2: Perform an accounting analysis of financial statements.

Outcome Measure:

ACC 5025 Financial Statement Analysis & Valuation: Accounting Analysis Assignment

Criteria for Success:

The average student score for each criterion on the MSA PLO #M2 rubric will be 3.00 or higher.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

MSA PLO #M2 Rubric - Average Student Score:

Semester	N ¹	Adjustments to Financial Data: Investments	Adjustments to Financial Data: Accounts Receivable	Adjustments to Financial Data: Inventory	Adjustments to Financial Data: Fixed Assets	Total
Spring 2025	44	3.41	3.55	3.36	3.00	3.33

¹ Number of Assessments

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The Master of Science in Accounting program at PLNU launched in Fall 2024, with its first cohort graduating in Summer 2025.

The criteria for success were met in all rubric criteria in Spring 2025.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Data will continue to be collected and monitored in future semesters. No changes required.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING PLO #M2 RUBRIC

Point Loma Nazarene University Master of Science in Accounting Learning Outcome #M2: Perform an accounting analysis of financial statements.

Criteria	Excellent 4	Meets Expectations 3	Needs Improvement 2	Does Not Meet Expectations 1
Adjustments to Financial Data: Investments	Precisely adjusts Nuware’s investment-related earnings (e.g., realized gains) based on RP Stuart’s policy; clearly explains the rationale for excluding one-time items.	Adjustment is mostly accurate; shows good understanding of earnings volatility and one-time gain treatment.	Attempted adjustment but with logic or calculation issues; limited rationale provided.	Adjustment is inaccurate or missing; rationale is unclear or unsupported.
Adjustments to Financial Data: Accounts Receivable	Applies correct allowance rate from RP Stuart; calculates and explains the impact on bad debt expense and net income with clear tie to earnings quality.	Mostly correct calculation and reasoning; minor errors in rate or explanation.	Basic attempt is made, but contains errors in concept, rate application, or interpretation.	Inaccurate or missing adjustment; lacks understanding of how receivables affect income quality.
Adjustments to Financial Data: Inventory	Correctly adjusts for LIFO vs. FIFO using the reserve change; explains implications for COGS and earnings; ties analysis to accounting conservatism.	Appropriate method is used; explanation is generally sound with minor errors.	Misapplies LIFO/FIFO relationship or misinterprets reserve effect; weak analysis.	Adjustment is missing or significantly flawed; limited or no understanding of cost flow impact.
Adjustments to Financial Data: Fixed Assets	Adjusts depreciation based on RP Stuart’s useful lives; clearly quantifies impact on earnings and articulates implications of longer useful life assumptions.	Reasonable calculation and explanation; shows understanding of the link between depreciation and performance.	Some errors in calculation or conceptual connection; reasoning may be unclear.	No meaningful adjustment or rationale; misunderstanding of depreciation’s role in earnings quality.

Average Score: _____ (Total/# of criteria)

Fermanian School of Business
MSA PLO #M3 Assessment
2024-2025

Learning Outcome:

MSA PLO #M3: Evaluate tax positions and planning opportunities based on federal tax knowledge.

Outcome Measure:

ACC 6032 Tax Planning, Research and Communication: Chapter 11 Homework

Criteria for Success:

The average student score for each criterion on the MSA PLO #M3 rubric will be 3.00 or higher.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

MSA PLO #M3 Rubric - Average Student Score:

Semester	N ¹	Question 1: Equity vs. Debt Investment Structure	Question 2: Capital Gain Acceleration and Carryforward Analysis	Question 3: Bonus vs. Deferred Salary Planning	Total
Summer 2025	42	3.00	3.40	2.29	2.90

¹ Number of Assessments

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The Master of Science in Accounting program at PLNU launched in Fall 2024, with its first cohort graduating in Summer 2025.

The criteria for success were met in all rubric criteria in Summer 2025 except Question 3.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Data will continue to be collected and monitored in future semesters. No changes required.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING PLO #M3 RUBRIC

Point Loma Nazarene University Master of Science in Accounting Learning Outcome #M3: Evaluate tax positions and planning opportunities based on federal tax knowledge.

Criteria	Excellent 4	Meets Expectations 3	Needs Improvement 2	Does Not Meet Expectations 1
Question 1: Equity vs. Debt Investment Structure	Clearly explains both tax advantages of structuring part of the investment as debt; demonstrates full understanding of interest deductibility and non-taxable repayments.	Explanation addresses both advantages but may lack depth or clarity in one area.	Identifies only one advantage or provides an incomplete explanation of both.	Explanation is vague, incorrect, or missing key tax benefits.
Question 2: Capital Gain Acceleration and Carryforward Analysis	Correctly calculates and compares all present value tax liabilities for each scenario using appropriate formulas and clearly identifies optimal strategy..	Calculations are mostly accurate with minor errors; logic is sound; explanation shows understanding of decision rule.	Several errors in PV calculations or misapplication of the decision rule; explanation lacks clarity.	Incorrect or missing calculations; misunderstanding of capital loss carryforwards or tax deferral concepts.
Question 3: Bonus vs. Deferred Salary Planning	Accurately computes employer and employee perspectives (a & b), fully explains the rationale for deferral in (c), and identifies negotiation zone; integrates tax and non-tax factors.	Most calculations are accurate; provides a logical explanation of tax advantage and decision point.	Incomplete or partially incorrect calculations; limited discussion of reasoning or risks.	Incorrect approach or missing key steps; fails to justify choice using tax rate changes or present value logic.

Average Score: _____ (Total/# of criteria)

Fermanian School of Business
MSA PLO #M4 Assessment
2024-2025

Learning Outcome:

MSA PLO #M4: Apply the process of data analytics, including identifying relevant issues, gathering data, performing testing, and analyzing results.

Outcome Measure:

ACC 5080 Advanced Accounting Data Analytics: PowerBI Capstone Project

Criteria for Success:

The average student score for each criterion on the MSA PLO #M4 rubric will be 3.00 or higher.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

MSA PLO #M4 Rubric - Average Student Score:

Semester	N ¹	Analytical Insight and Reasoning	Visualizations and Communication	Written Report Quality	Total
Spring 2025	22	2.45	2.09	3.00	2.52

¹ Number of Assessments

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The Master of Science in Accounting program at PLNU launched in Fall 2024, with its first cohort graduating in Summer 2025.

The criteria for success were met in the area of Written Report Quality, but not in Analytical Insight and Reasoning or Visualizations and Communication in Spring 2025.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

The instructor of this course has decided to change the assessment starting in Spring 2026 to an Alteryx Capstone Project to better assess PLO M4. Data will continue to be collected and monitored in future semesters. No changes required at this time.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING PLO #M4 RUBRIC

Point Loma Nazarene University Master of Science in Accounting Learning Outcome #M4: Apply the process of data analytics, including identifying relevant issues, gathering data, performing testing, and analyzing results.

Criteria	Excellent 4	Meets Expectations 3	Needs Improvement 2	Does Not Meet Expectations 1
Analytical Insight and Reasoning	Provides thorough and compelling insights supported by clearly articulated rationale and advanced analytical thinking. Demonstrates full understanding of the problem and business context.	Provides clear insights with reasonable explanations and good understanding of key issues.	Offers limited insight or inconsistent logic; explanations lack clarity or depth.	Demonstrates minimal insight; reasoning is unclear or unsupported.
Visualizations and Communication	Visuals are professional, diverse, clean, and effectively support conclusions. AI tools and geographic visuals are used meaningfully and explained well.	Visuals are generally well-designed and support analysis. At least one AI tool and required visuals are present and explained.	Visuals are somewhat cluttered or unclear; some required elements missing or poorly explained.	Visuals are incomplete, confusing, or fail to support findings; key elements missing.
Written Report Quality	Report is well-structured, professionally written, and clearly explains all analysis steps (ETL, modeling, findings, recommendations). Fully meets assignment expectations.	Report is mostly well-written and covers most steps of the project clearly. Minor gaps in explanation or structure.	Report lacks organization, clarity, or depth; several required elements are underdeveloped or missing.	Report is poorly written, incomplete, or missing key elements of the assignment.

Average Score: _____ (Total/# of criteria)

Fermanian School of Business
MSA PLO #M5 Assessment
2024-2025

Learning Outcome:

MSA PLO #M5: Apply audit knowledge and techniques to financial statements.

Outcome Measure:

ACC 5060 Auditing: Audit Project

Criteria for Success:

The average student score for each criterion on the MSA PLO #M5 rubric will be 3.00 or higher.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

MSA PLO #M5 Rubric - Average Student Score:

Data were not collected in Spring 2025 because an adjunct professor taught the course, and an assessment for this course is still being developed.

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The Master of Science in Accounting program at PLNU launched in Fall 2024, with its first cohort graduating in Summer 2025.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

A new full-time faculty member was hired in AY25-26 and will develop the assessment for this PLO in Spring 2026.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING PLO #M5 RUBRIC

Point Loma Nazarene University Master of Science in Accounting Learning Outcome #M5: Apply audit knowledge and techniques to financial statements.

Criteria	Excellent 4	Meets Expectations 3	Needs Improvement 2	Does Not Meet Expectations 1

Average Score: _____ (Total/# of criteria)