

# ACCOUNTING 1



## Accounting Basics

### Accounting Standards

- Accounting principles have been in existence since the late 1400s when Giovanni Lippi (Florence) set Italian businesses, and have evolved over time.
- Modern-day accounting principles in the United States are collectively 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 is responsible for the development of GAAP in the accounting profession via the **Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)**.
- The FASB develops new standards via due process activities that allow input from various stakeholders and accountants in the industry.
- The **International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)** develops global accounting standards.
  - Multi-national 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 Department of Education (DOE).
  - The federal government follows standards set by the GASB when performing accounting for its state.

### 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 assets and obligations of its owner.
- Going concern concept (i.e., continuity assumption)**: The entity will continue to exist long enough to meet its contractual obligations and carry out plans.
  - Businesses should report information on 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 financial information quarterly (3-month time intervals).
- Reliability principle**
  - Accounting records must be based on the most reliable data available.
  - Reliable measurements in amounts, objectives, methods, and verifiability.
- Relevance principle**
  - Accounting information must be timely.
  - Accounting information in production provides feedback and helps decision making.
- Cost principle**: Assets and services acquired are recorded at actual historical cost unless their current value.
- Conservatism**
  - Losses must be recognized to avoid overvaluing assets and overstate and understate 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 or credit sales.
- Matching principle**
  - Expenses must be matched against revenues in the same accounting period.
  - Costs incurred in previous periods in a period are recognized as expenses.
- The accounting period**
  - The accounting period is the period connecting the business activities.
  - It is usually 1 year ending on Dec. 31 (called the fiscal year in the calendar year).
  - Other fiscal year ends will use any other date of the year elected by management.
- Cost basis accounting**
  - The impact of costs 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 costs is recognized as they occur.
  - Revenue is recorded when earned; expenses are recorded when incurred.
  - Transactions are recorded when cash has not been received or paid.
  - This method is required by GAAP.

### The Accounting Equation

Assets = Liabilities + Owners' Equity

### Assets

- Assets are economic resources expected to benefit the company in the future; they would have their fair market value.
  - Current assets**: Assets with a maturity of less than 1 year.
  - Accounts receivable**: Cash or cash equivalents usually arise from sales made on account.
  - Notes receivable**: Promissory notes, a signed note usually with payment instructions such as when, where, and how to pay.
  - Inventory**: Merchandise the entity holds or intends to sell.
  - Supplies**: Assets used in the everyday running of the business; examples include office and janitorial supplies.
  - Prepaid expenses**: Expenses for goods and services to be received in the future.
  - Land**: Property the business owns and uses in operations.
  - Buildings**: Structures with a useful life of more than one year.
  - Equipment, furniture, and fixtures**: Cost of office, retail, and other equipment.
  - Assets are listed on the balance sheet in order of liquidity.
- Assets are listed according to whether they are long-term assets.
  - Liabilities**: Economic obligations or debts payable to others resulting from past transactions.
  - Accounts payable**: Cash or cash equivalents to pay others that arise from credit purchases.
  - Notes payable**: Amounts the company must pay as a result of signing a promissory note for goods or services.
  - Owner payable**: Wages and salaries payable.
  - Unearned revenues**: Money received for services not yet fulfilled or products not yet delivered; examples include cash received for utility bills (bills not yet received), cash received for services not yet performed, or cash received for services not yet delivered.
- Owner's equity**: A firm's total net worth, the difference between assets and liabilities, divided into two main categories.
  - Contributed or paid-in capital**: Amount invested in the corporation by its owners.
    - Preferred stock**: The value of preferred stock is set at the time of issue.
    - Common stock**: The value of common stock is set at the time of issue.
  - Retained earnings**: Income earned from operations.
    - Retained**: Income is retained earnings resulting from operations.
    - Dividends**: Distribution of assets or obligations; however, in retained earnings.
    - Change in retained earnings**: Retaining Retained Earnings = The balance at - The balance at - The balance.

## Financial Statements: Formal Reports of an Entity

### Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position)

- Assets are balanced with the sum of liabilities and owner's 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 current operating cycle of the business (usually 1 year).
  - Current current assets: Cash, receivables, investments, inventories, supplies, and prepaid expenses.
- Noncurrent assets**
  - Assets that are not current assets.
  - Current noncurrent assets: Buildings, equipment, furniture, fixtures, land, natural resources, and intangible assets (patents and copyrights).
- Current liabilities**
  - Obligations that will be paid within the operating cycle (usually 1 year).
  - Typical current liabilities: Accounts payable, wages and salaries payable, short-term notes payable, current investments, and short-term notes payable.
- Noncurrent liabilities**
  - Liabilities that are not current liabilities.
  - Typical noncurrent liabilities: The noncurrent portion of payables 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  
\$100,000

Current assets		
Cash		\$100,000
Accounts receivable	\$5,000	
Investment for charitable purposes	\$2,000	\$7,000
Notes receivable		\$100
Prepaid expenses	\$5,000	
Prepaid insurance		\$500
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>\$112,500</b>

# Mcdougal Study Guide Accounting 1

**S Ashworth**



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