



ACCT 330: Cost Accounting

Term: Fall 2026

Credits: 3.0

Lecture Times & Location: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Tidewell Hall 120

Modality: In-Person

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Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Dr. Layla Nasser (Assistant Professor of Accounting)
- **Email:** lnasser@university.alkimi.ai
- **Office:** Tidewell Hall 308
- **Office Hours:**
 - Monday & Friday: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (In person, Tidewell Hall 308)
 - Tuesday: 2:00–3:00 p.m. (Virtual via Zoom; link posted in Canvas)
 - Also available by appointment.

Course Description

Product costing systems, activity-based costing, joint and by-product costs, standard costing and variance analysis, performance measurement, transfer pricing, and cost data for strategic decisions. ACCT 330 develops quantitative models and analytical frameworks for measuring, analyzing, and managing product and service costs in modern manufacturing and service organizations. Students examine job-order and process costing systems, design multi-stage activity-based costing (ABC) models, and conduct standard costing with detailed variance analysis across direct materials, direct labor, and manufacturing overhead. The course emphasizes managerial decision-making, exploring cost-volume-profit relationships, customer profitability, transfer pricing in decentralized divisions, and the strategic alignment of performance measurement systems using the Balanced Scorecard.

Prerequisites

ACCT 202.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of ACCT 330, students will be able to:

1. **Distinguish and Classify Cost Structures:** Differentiate direct, indirect, fixed, variable, and mixed costs, and analyze cost behavior for operational planning and cost control.
2. **Design Product Costing Systems:** Calculate product costs using job-order, process (weighted-average and FIFO), and activity-based costing systems to allocate manufacturing overhead accurately.
3. **Perform Variance Analysis:** Construct flexible budgets and compute price, efficiency, spending, and volume variances for direct materials, direct labor, and overhead.
4. **Evaluate Strategic Decision Models:** Apply relevant costing and incremental analysis to make-or-buy decisions, special orders, product-line retention, and constrained resource allocation.

5. **Analyze Decentralized Performance and Transfer Pricing:** Evaluate organizational sub-units using return on investment (ROI), residual income (RI), and market-, cost-, or negotiated transfer pricing models.

Required Course Materials & Approximate Costs

1. **Charles T. Horngren, Srikant M. Datar, and Madhav V. Rajan. *Cost Accounting: A Managerial Emphasis*. 17th ed., Pearson, 2021.** Approx. \$65 digital rental, \$145 print purchase.
2. **Alkimi Managerial Cost Accounting Case Packet.** Free digital case materials provided on Canvas.
3. **Total estimated cost:** \$65 to \$145.

Generative AI Policy (AI Level 2: AI Permitted with Disclosure for Specified Tasks)

In accordance with Alkimi University Academic Policies (Student Handbook §5.8), ACCT 330 operates under **AI Level 2**.

- **What is permitted:** You may use generative AI tools to review cost accounting terminology, explain spreadsheet formula syntax, and brainstorm potential cost-driver categories for case assignments.
- **What is prohibited:** You may not use AI tools during in-class examinations, nor may you submit AI-generated numerical calculations, cost-allocation tables, or case write-ups as your own work.
- **Disclosure:** Any assignment that utilizes AI for formula troubleshooting or conceptual clarification must include an AI disclosure note detailing the tool used and the specific nature of the query.

Grading Components and Weights

- **Midterm Examination 1:** 20% (In class, Thursday, September 24)
- **Midterm Examination 2:** 20% (In class, Thursday, October 29)
- **Managerial Cost Analysis Case:** 15% (Due Friday, November 20 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Weekly Problem Sets:** 15% (Weekly quantitative cost problem sets submitted via Canvas on Fridays at 11:59 p.m.; lowest score dropped)
- **In-Class Cost Problem Exercises:** 10% (Short practical problem-solving exercises completed during Thursday class sessions)
- **Comprehensive Final Examination:** 20% (Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 1:30–3:30 p.m.)

Grading Scale (Alkimi University Standard)

- **A:** 93–100% | **A-:** 90–92%
- **B+:** 87–89% | **B:** 83–86% | **B-:** 80–82%
- **C+:** 77–79% | **C:** 73–76% | **C-:** 70–72%
- **D+:** 67–69% | **D:** 60–66% | **F:** Below 60%
- **Extra credit:** No extra credit assignments are available in ACCT 330. Students are encouraged to focus their energy on regular homework assignments, in-class exercises, and exam preparation.

Course Schedule (Fall 2026)

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 1	Aug 27	The Manager and Management Accounting: Role of management accounting in strategic decisions; cost objects, direct vs. indirect costs, cost classifications, and product vs. period costs. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 1–2</i>	<i>First day of classes: Wed Aug 26.</i>
Week 2	Sep 1, 3	Cost-Volume-Profit (CVP) Analysis: Cost-volume-profit assumptions, contribution margin, breakeven analysis, target operating income, margin of safety, and operating leverage. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 3</i>	<i>Wed Sep 2: Add/section change deadline.</i>

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 3	Sep 8, 10	Job-Order Costing Systems: Job costing overview; source documents, normal costing vs. actual costing, and accounting for under- or overallocated manufacturing overhead. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 4</i>	<i>Mon Sep 7: Labor Day (no classes). Wed Sep 9: Census date (last day to drop without a W).</i>
Week 4	Sep 15, 17	Activity-Based Costing and Activity-Based Management: Cost hierarchies, cost distortion under simple volume-based costing, designing activity-based costing (ABC) systems, and activity-based management (ABM). <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 5</i>	—
Week 5	Sep 22, 24	Process Costing: Weighted-Average Method and Midterm 1: Equivalent units of production; process costing under the weighted-average method; Midterm Examination 1 in class. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 17 (pp. 640–665)</i>	Midterm Examination 1 (in class).
Week 6	Sep 29, Oct 1	Process Costing: FIFO and Spoilage Accounting: First-In, First-Out (FIFO) process costing mechanics; accounting for normal and abnormal spoilage, rework, and scrap. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 17 (pp. 666–690), Ch. 18</i>	—
Week 7	Oct 6, 8	Master Budget and Responsibility Accounting: Purposes of budgeting; developing the master budget, operating budgets, cash budgets, and budgeted balance sheets; behavioral aspects of budgeting. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 6</i>	—
Week 8	Oct 15	Flexible Budgets and Direct-Cost Variances (Fall Break Week): Static budgets vs. flexible budgets; direct material and direct labor price and efficiency variances; management by exception. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 7</i>	<i>Oct 12–Oct 13: Fall break (no classes).</i>
Week 9	Oct 20, 22	Overhead Cost Variances and Capacity Analysis: Variable overhead spending and efficiency variances; fixed overhead spending and production-volume variances; 4-variance, 3-variance, and 2-variance analysis. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 8</i>	—
Week 10	Oct 27, 29	Inventory Costing: Variable vs. Absorption Costing and Midterm 2: Comparing variable costing and absorption costing; impact on inventory valuation and operating income; throughput costing; Midterm Examination 2 in class. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 9</i>	Midterm Examination 2 (in class).
Week 11	Nov 3, 5	Determining Cost Behavior and Relevant Information: Linear cost functions, quantitative cost estimation methods; concept of relevance, opportunity costs, make-or-buy decisions, and special order pricing. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 10–11</i>	<i>Fri Nov 6: Last day to withdraw (W) or elect Pass/No Pass.</i>
Week 12	Nov 10, 12	Pricing Decisions, Target Costing, and Customer Profitability: Target pricing, target costing, value engineering, cost-plus pricing, and customer profitability analysis under activity-based costing. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 12, 14</i>	—
Week 13	Nov 17, 19	Allocation of Joint and By-Product Costs: Joint products, split-off point, and by-products; sales value at split-off, physical measure, and net realizable value (NRV) methods; Cost Analysis Case due. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 16</i>	Managerial Cost Analysis Case due Fri Nov 20 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 14	Nov 24	Strategy, the Balanced Scorecard, and Quality (Thanksgiving Week): Balanced Scorecard perspectives: financial, customer, internal business processes, learning and growth; strategy mapping and environmental cost management. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 13</i>	<i>Nov 25–Nov 27: Thanksgiving break (no classes).</i>
Week 15	Dec 1, 3	Transfer Pricing and Multinational Performance Measurement: Decentralization advantages and costs; transfer pricing methods (market-based, cost-based, negotiated); return on investment (ROI) and residual income (RI). <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Ch. 22–23</i>	—

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 16	Dec 8	Strategic Cost Synthesis and Final Review: Synthesis of cost accounting tools for executive decision support; ethics in managerial accounting; comprehensive review for final examination. <i>Reading: Horngren et al., Review</i>	<i>Wed Dec 9: Last day of classes. Thu Dec 10: Reading Day.</i>
Finals	Dec 16	Comprehensive Final Examination: Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Tidewell Hall 120.	Scheduled during the university final examination period in Tidewell Hall 120.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in Tidewell Hall 120 is required to participate in guided cost-accounting problem sessions and case reviews. If you are unable to attend due to illness or official university business, contact Dr. Nasser beforehand and arrange to review notes with a classmate. Students who miss the first two class meetings without notifying the instructor may be dropped. Students may miss class for religious observance without penalty if they notify the instructor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester (by Wednesday, September 9, 2026). Absences for university-sponsored activities (athletics, performances, conferences) are excused with a letter from the sponsoring office at least one week in advance.

Late Work Policy

Weekly problem sets and the Managerial Cost Analysis Case lose 10% for each calendar day they are late and are not accepted after three days past the deadline. In-class exercises must be completed during the scheduled class period unless an excused absence is approved.

Final Exam Policy

The final examination (Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 1:30–3:30 p.m.) is scheduled by the University Registrar and can't be moved without the Dean's written approval (Faculty Handbook §5.5). A student with three or more final exams on the same calendar day may reschedule one of them. Requests go to the instructor of the middle exam by the last day of classes. For this term, send the request by Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (Student Handbook §6.4).

Academic Integrity

Alkimi University is an academic community devoted to rigorous scholarship, open intellectual inquiry, and uncompromising ethical conduct. All students are subject to the regulations of the Alkimi University Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication of empirical data, and unauthorized submission of academic work generated by artificial intelligence—undermines the integrity of the university and carries severe disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions range from a failing grade on an assignment or exam to an administrative course failure recorded as an 'XF' on the official transcript, academic suspension, or expulsion. Suspected violations are formally investigated and resolved through the Office of Academic Integrity in accordance with Faculty Handbook §6. For detailed information, consult the Office of Academic Integrity, Lovell Hall 315, (555) 555-0163, integrity@university.alkimi.ai.

Accessibility Services

Alkimi University is committed to providing equitable educational access and reasonable accommodations for all students with documented disabilities, including physical, sensory, psychological, learning, and chronic health conditions. Students requesting academic accommodations must formally register with the Office of Accessibility Services, Harlan Hall 204, (555) 555-0155, access@university.alkimi.ai. Once approved, students will receive an official Faculty Accommodation Letter detailing approved accommodations.

Students should present this letter to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, and at least one week prior to any exam or assignment requiring accommodation. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

Student Wellness and Mental Health

Your physical health, psychological well-being, and mental health are essential to your academic success. If you experience heightened stress, anxiety, depressive symptoms, personal trauma, or academic burnout, free, confidential counseling and medical care are available through the Hollis Health & Counseling Center, located in the Hollis Center. Routine appointments are available Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. during the semester by calling (555) 555-0190 or emailing health@university.alkimi.ai. Urgent, 24/7 crisis psychological counseling is accessible immediately at (555) 555-0199.

Campus Student Support Services

- **Academic Advising Center:** Lovell Hall 101 | (555) 555-0158 | advising@university.alkimi.ai
- **Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Free consultations on papers, reports, and research projects at any stage.
- **Whitcombe Library:** Whitcombe Library, Main Floor | (555) 555-0170 | askalibrarian@university.alkimi.ai
- **Hollis Health & Counseling Center:** Hollis Center | (555) 555-0190 | 24/7 Counseling Line: (555) 555-0199 | health@university.alkimi.ai
- **Accounting Tutoring Center:** Peer tutoring and homework assistance are available weekly in Tidewell Hall; check Canvas for scheduled hours.