# PLC1 and Examples of How it is Measured through Assessment-Level Competencies BLE5, BLE 6, HRM6 & FACT4

#### **Program Level Competency**

PLC1: Demonstrate social and personal responsibility and ethical behavior for organizational contexts.

#### Assessment-Level Competencies from Business Law and Ethics (for PLC1)

BLE5: Analyze business ethics & BLE6: Analyze a specific organization's application of legal and ethical principles.

To demonstrate your competence, you should be able to:

- > Analyze the maximizing profits theory of corporate social responsibility
- > Analyze stakeholder interest theories of corporate social responsibility
- Analyze a specific organization's legal structure, use of contracts, approach to dispute resolution, and compliance with government regulation.
- > Analyze a specific organization's approach to social responsibility.

Example Assignment #1

#### Overview

For this assessment, you'll need to be able to address maximizing profits theory and stakeholder interest within the framework of corporate social responsibility.

- **Point Value**: 30 points
- Min. Required Score: 24 points
- Allowed Attempts: 2
- Grading Time: 3 days

#### **Required Resource**

Video Other People's Money



Other People's Money (103 minutes)

Note You can use your local library services to obtain a copy of this video, if needed.

#### Directions

<u>After completing the reading on corporate social responsibility and watching the movie *Other People's Money*, compose a reflection paper. The paper should include a brief summary of the movie and a definition and comparison of the maximizing profits and stakeholder interest theories of corporate social responsibility.</u>

Please also analyze the ethical issues faced by the characters of the movie, and share your thoughts as to what the characters should or should not have done and why. In particular, compare and contrast the motivations and approaches to corporate social responsibility of the Danny DeVito (Larry the Liquidator) and Gregory Peck (Company President) characters. Which do you prefer and why? Formal references are not required, but, if you choose to include such sources, they need to be cited properly.

#### Format

- 5 to 8 pages, double-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- 1" margins

#### Evaluation

• A rubric for this assignment is located below the instructions.

#### Submission

You are encouraged to submit assessments as you complete them. Feedback provided by your instructor is often helpful as you complete future assessments. Please know, if you choose to submit multiple assessments at the same time, you may experience a delay in grading turnaround time.

#### Rubric

Maximizing Profits and Stakeholder Interest Rubric

Maximizing Profits and Stakeholder Interest Rubric

Ratings

Pts

#### Criteria

#### 14.0 pts 7.0 pts 12.0 pts **Completely Meets Expectations Does Not Meet Expectations** Partially Meets Expectations Demonstrates a complete and Does not demonstrate a thorough reflective cycle. Is of Demonstrates a complete complete reflective cycle. Is the assigned length, and all reflective cycle. Is of the outside the assigned length, 14.0content contributes to the assigned length. Shows Content with a large amount of pts paper. Shows mastery of the comprehension of most core irrelevant material. Does not core content of the material and content and some ability to demonstrate comprehension discusses fully its application in apply this in a specific of content or fails to discuss a specific environment. environment. Includes all its application in a specific Includes all required elements required elements of the environment. (7 points or of the assignment. (1413 assignment. (1012 points) fewer) points)

## Maximizing Profits and Stakeholder Interest Rubric

| Criteria               | Ratings  |  |   |   | Pts   |  |     |
|------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|-----|
|                        | 8.0 pts  |  |   | 6.0 pts   |   | 4.0 pts  |     |
|                        | Completely Meets Expectat  | tions  |   | Partially Meets Expect  | ctation   | Does Not Meet<br>Expectations  | 8.0 |
| Organization           | Writer expresses relationships among<br>ideas; careful and subtle organization<br>enhances effectiveness of<br>communication. (78 points)Relationships among ideas<br> |  | ions a  | and between ideas are   | 8.0<br>pts  |  |     |
|                        | 2.0 pts  | 1.0  | 0 pts   | 5   |   | 0.0 pts  |     |
| Grammar,               | Completely Meets<br>Expectations   |  |   | lly Meets Expectations  |   | Does Not Meet<br>Expectations  | 2.0 |
| Spelling,<br>Mechanics | Mastery of grammar, spelli<br>and mechanics enhances the<br>effectiveness of<br>communication. (2 points)  | ng, gra<br>e do<br>efi   | amn<br>o not  | nar, spelling, or mecha<br>distract from the over<br>iveness of the paper. (1 | all   | Errors in grammar,<br>spelling, or mechanics<br>cause reader to frequently<br>stop reading. (0 points) | pts |
|                        | 2.0 pts  | 1  | 1.0 p   | ots   |   | 0.0 pts  |     |
|                        | Completely Meets Expectat  |  | -   |   | ns  | Does Not Meet<br>Expectations  | 2.0 |
| Details                | the effectiveness of t   |  | ce Details are specific and enhance<br>the effectiveness of<br>communication. (1 point) |   | Details lack elaboration;<br>important details omitted.<br>(0 points) | pts  |     |
|                        | 2.0 pts  | 1.0 pt   | S   |   | 0.0 p   | ots  |     |
|                        | Completely Meets<br>Expectations   | Partia   | lly l   | Meets Expectations  | Does  | Not Meet Expectations  | 2.0 |
| Sentences              | Sentence variety enhances<br>style and effectiveness of<br>communication. (2 points)   | Complete sentences with somePoorsentence variety mostly supportruneffective communication. (1freepoint)und   |   | run-o<br>frequ  | in-ons and fragments,   |  |     |
|                        | 2.0 pts  |  | 1   | .0 pts  |   | 0.0 pts  |     |
|                        | Completely Meets Expectat  | tions  |   | Partially Meets<br>Expectations   |   | Does Not Meet<br>Expectations  | 2.0 |
| Citations              | appropriately cited and enh<br>content. No errors in the ap  | Material needing citation is<br>appropriately cited and enhances the<br>content. No errors in the application<br>of the APA 6th edition (2 points) |   | present. Some errors in are application of APA 6th app                        |   | Some necessary citations<br>are missing. Errors in<br>application of APA 6th<br>edition. (0 points)    | pts |

#### Overview

For this assessment, you'll need to be able to assess the concept of corporate social responsibility.



- Point Value: 30 points
- Min. Required Score: 24 points
- Allowed Attempts: 2
- Grading Time: 3 days

#### Directions

After completing the reading on corporate social responsibility and watching the Milton Friedman interview, prepare a reflection paper. The paper should address issues of personal freedom vs. social responsibility and should specifically address Friedman's comments about greed starting at 21:10.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with Milton Friedman? Is greed good? Should businesses limit themselves to making money, or should they do more? Why or why not? Formal references are not required, but, if you choose to include such sources, they need to be cited properly.

#### Format

- 3 to 5 pages, double-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- 1" margins

#### Evaluation

• A rubric for this assignment is located below the instructions.

#### Submission

You are encouraged to submit assessments as you complete them. Feedback provided by your instructor is often helpful as you complete future assessments. Please know, if you choose to submit multiple assessments at the same time, you may experience a delay in grading turnaround time.

## Rubric

Criteria

## Corporate Social Responsibility Rubric

## Ratings

Pts

|                                    |   |  |   | C   |  |  |             |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|-------------|
| Content                            | 14.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Demonstrates a complete and<br>thorough reflective cycle. Is of<br>the assigned length, and all<br>content contributes to the<br>paper. Shows mastery of the<br>core content of the material and<br>discusses fully its application<br>a specific environment.<br>Includes all required elements<br>of the assignment. (1413<br>points) | ns Pa<br>f De<br>ref<br>ass<br>co<br>id co<br>in ap<br>en<br>rec | emon<br>flect<br>ssign<br>ompr<br>onten<br>oply<br>viro<br>equire | lly Meets Expectations<br>nstrates a complete<br>ive cycle. Is of the<br>ed length. Shows<br>rehension of most core<br>at and some ability to | Does<br>comp<br>outsi<br>with<br>irrele<br>demo<br>of co<br>its ap | Not Meet Expectations<br>not demonstrate a<br>blete reflective cycle. Is<br>de the assigned length,<br>a large amount of<br>evant material. Does not<br>onstrate comprehension<br>ntent or fails to discuss<br>oplication in a specific<br>ronment. (7 points or | 14.0<br>pts |
| Organization                       | 8.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Writer expresses relationships<br>ideas; careful and subtle organ<br>enhances effectiveness of<br>communication. (78 points)   | amo  | ong   | 6.0 pts<br>Partially Meets Expecta<br>Relationships among ic<br>are assisted by transitio<br>logical progression of i<br>(56 points)          | leas<br>ons an   | Expectations<br>Few relationships  | 8.0<br>pts  |
| Grammar,<br>Spelling,<br>Mechanics | <ul><li>2.0 pts</li><li>Completely Meets<br/>Expectations</li><li>Mastery of grammar, spelling,<br/>and mechanics enhances the<br/>effectiveness of<br/>communication. (2 points)</li></ul>   | Par<br>A s<br>gra<br>do<br>effe                                  | smal<br>amm<br>not  | ly Meets Expectations<br>Il number of errors in<br>ar, spelling, or mechani<br>distract from the overal<br>veness of the paper. (1            | E<br>ics E<br>1 sj<br>c  | .0 pts<br>Does Not Meet<br>Expectations<br>Frors in grammar,<br>pelling, or mechanics<br>ause reader to frequently<br>top reading. (0 points)  | 2.0<br>pts  |
| Details                            | 2.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Rich supporting details enhance<br>the effectiveness of<br>communication. (2 points)   | ns P<br>ce D<br>th   | Detai<br>he ef  | ts<br>ally Meets Expectations<br>ils are specific and enha<br>ffectiveness of<br>nunication. (1 point)  | ince   | 0.0 pts<br>Does Not Meet<br>Expectations<br>Details lack elaboration;<br>important details omitted.<br>(0 points)  | 2.0<br>pts  |
| Sentences                          | 2.0 pts 1   | .0 pts   | S   | 0   | ).0 pts  | i -  | 2.0<br>pts  |

#### Corporate Social Responsibility Rubric

| Criteria  | Ratings  |           |   | Pts          |  |     |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|--------------|--|-----|
|           | Completely Meets   | Partiall  | y Meets Expectations  | Doe          | es Not Meet Expectations   |     |
|           | Expectations<br>Sentence variety enhances<br>style and effectiveness of<br>communication. (2 points)                           | sentenc   | e variety mostly support<br>e communication. (1   | run-<br>freq | or sentence structure, such as<br>ons and fragments,<br>quently interfere with<br>erstanding. (0 points) |     |
|           | 2.0 pts  |           | 1.0 pts   |              | 0.0 pts  |     |
|           | Completely Meets Expectat  | ions      | Partially Meets<br>Expectations   |              | Does Not Meet<br>Expectations  | 2.0 |
| Citations | Material needing citation is<br>appropriately cited and enha-<br>content. No errors in the app<br>of the APA 6th edition. (2 p | plication | All necessary citations a<br>present. Some errors in<br>application of APA 6th<br>edition.(1 point) |              | Some necessary citations<br>are missing. Errors in<br>application of APA 6th<br>edition. (0 points)      | pts |

**Example Assignment #3** 

#### **Business Interview Directions**

1: While you are working through BLE1-5, identify a business owner to interview. You must select a private business owner who has executive directive over ethical issues found within the company. Selecting someone from the public sector or a manager within a business is not allowed because they do not have full control over legal and ethical business decisions. If possible, select a person who owns a business that interests you. Submit the subject of your interview to the faculty for approval.

2: Once the faculty has approved your selection, prepare a list of questions for the interview. The questions should cover the topics addressed in BLE1-5. Submit your list of questions to the faculty for approval.

3: Once the faculty has approved your questions, conduct the interview.

4: Write a paper about the experience. The paper should have an introduction, main body, and conclusion. The introduction of the paper should include information on who you have interviewed and why. The main body of the paper should be structured around the questions, listing each question asked followed by the subject's response to that question and then your comments, recommendations, and/or concerns regarding that response. Your conclusion should include at least three lessons you have learned.

#### Format

- 10 pages, double-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- 1" margins

#### Evaluation

• A rubric for this assignment is located below the instructions.

| Criteria   | В   | usiness In  | terview Rubric<br><b>Ratings</b>  |   |   | Pts         |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| This criterion is<br>linked to a Learning<br>Outcome Content                         | 14.0 pts<br>Completely Meets<br>Expectations<br>Shows mastery of the core<br>content of the material by the<br>questions asked and<br>information obtained from<br>interview subject. Shows<br>mastery of the core content of<br>the material by the analysis of<br>the interview subjects<br>business and ethical practices.<br>Is of the assigned length, and<br>all content contributes to the<br>paper. Includes all required<br>elements of the assignment.<br>(1314 points) | Shows c<br>core con<br>the ques<br>informat<br>interview<br>compreh<br>content of<br>analysis<br>subjects<br>practices<br>length. I | Weets Expectations<br>comprehension of the<br>tent of the material by<br>tions asked and<br>tion obtained from<br>w subject. Shows<br>tension of the core<br>of the material by the<br>of the interview<br>business and ethical<br>s. Is of the assigned<br>includes all required<br>s of the assignment. | Does r<br>compro<br>of the s<br>asked a<br>from in<br>demon<br>core co<br>analys:<br>busine<br>outside<br>large a<br>Does r<br>elemer | Not Meet Expectations<br>not demonstrate<br>ehension of the core content<br>material by the questions<br>and information obtained<br>nterview subject. Does not<br>strate comprehension of the<br>ontent of the material by the<br>is of the interview subjects<br>ss and ethical practices. Is<br>e the assigned length, with a<br>mount of irrelevant material.<br>not include all required<br>nts of the assignment. (7<br>or fewer) | 14.0<br>pts |
| This criterion is<br>linked to a Learning<br>Outcome<br>Organization                 | 8.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Writer expresses relationships<br>ideas; careful and subtle orgar<br>enhances effectiveness of<br>communication. (78 points)   | among   | 6.0 pts<br>Partially Meets Exper<br>Relationships among<br>assisted by transition<br>logical progression of<br>points)  | ideas a<br>s and  | re Expectations<br>Few relationships  | 8.0<br>pts  |
| This criterion is<br>linked to a Learning<br>Outcome Grammar,<br>Spelling, Mechanics | 2.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Mastery of grammar, spelling,<br>and mechanics enhances the<br>effectiveness of communication<br>(2 points)  | , A sm<br>gram<br>on. not d   | ts<br>ally Meets Expectations<br>hall number of errors in<br>mar, spelling, or mecha<br>listract from the overall<br>tiveness of the paper. (1  | nics do   | 0.0 pts<br>Does Not Meet<br>Expectations<br>Errors in grammar,<br>spelling, or mechanics<br>cause reader to frequently<br>stop reading. (0)   | 2.0<br>pts  |
| This criterion is<br>linked to a Learning<br>Outcome Details                         | 2.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Rich supporting details enhance<br>the effectiveness of<br>communication. (2 points)   | ce Deta<br>the e  | ots<br>ially Meets Expectations<br>iils are specific and enha<br>effectiveness of<br>munication. (12 points)  |   | 1.0 pts<br>Does Not Meet Expectations<br>Details lack elaboration;<br>important details omitted.(1<br>point or fewer)   | 2.0<br>pts  |
| This criterion is<br>linked to a Learning<br>Outcome Sentences                       | 2.0 pts<br>Completely Meets<br>Expectations<br>Sentence variety enhances<br>style and effectiveness of<br>communication. (2 points)   | Complete<br>sentence  | Meets Expectations<br>e sentences with some<br>variety mostly support<br>communication. (12   | Poor<br>run-c   | Not Meet Expectations<br>sentence structure, such as<br>ons and fragments, frequently<br>fere with understanding. (0  | 2.0<br>pts  |
| This criterion is<br>linked to a Learning<br>Outcome Citations                       | 2.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectation<br>Material needing citation is<br>appropriately cited and enhance<br>content. No errors in the appli<br>the APA 6th edition. (2 points   | ns<br>ces the<br>cation of  | 1.0 pts<br>Partially Meets Expecta<br>All necessary citations a<br>present. Some errors in<br>application of APA 6th<br>edition. (12 points)  | ations<br>are   | 0.0 pts<br>Does Not Meet Expectations<br>Some necessary citations are<br>missing. Errors in<br>application of APA 6th<br>edition. (0 points)  | 2.0<br>pts  |

## Assessment-Level Competency from HRM (for PLC1)

HRM 6: Apply ethical practices related to human resource management.

To demonstrate your competence, you should be able to:

- Analyze relevant facts and data for the given scenario
- Conduct a legal analysis form HRM legal principles for the HRM scenario
- Discuss ethical frameworks that are relevant for the given HRM scenario
- Arrive at a decision based on ethical frameworks for the scenario.
- Complete written communication of the decision with justification based on ethical and legal analysis

#### **Example Case/Scenario:**

**Scenario:** You've been working with *The Daily Register*, a regional newspaper, for the last 12 months in the HR department. One of the sales managers, Paul White, has submitted the paperwork for terminating one of his employees. The sales department is responsible for soliciting and securing advertisers for the newspaper. Paul maintains that Jeanette Landis has failed to reach sales goals for the last six months despite numerous attempts at discipline and remediation. Furthermore, Jeanette has threatened to file a lawsuit if *The Daily Registrar* terminates her employment. The HR manager has requested that you investigate Jeanette's performance to determine whether she should in fact be terminated. The documents sent by Paul, documents that you've received in HR, Jeanette's job description, and the company's discipline policy appear in the Exhibits 1–6. In a separate spreadsheet you'll find performance appraisal and sales data from other employees.

**Task:** You will provide a one-page recommendation for the appropriate level of discipline for Jeanette, ranging from no discipline needed to termination, based on your interpretation of the data in Part 1.

Your response should include:

- A clear recommendation for the level of discipline Jeanette receive, if any
- Justification for the decision based on the data analysis in Part 1
- Justification for the decision based on employment law (which may include potential legal risks associated with other disciplinary options you didn't choose)
- Justification for the decision based on ethics

#### Format

Consult the Project Overview section for details on formatting.

#### Evaluation

A rubric for this assignment is located below the instructions.

#### Submission

You are encouraged to submit assessments as you complete them. Feedback provided by your instructor is often helpful as you complete future assessments. Please know, if you choose to submit multiple assessments at the same time, you may experience a delay in grading turnaround time.

Rubric:

| Criteria                       |   |   | Rubric<br>Ratings   |   |   | Pts         |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| Criteria                       | 15.0 to >13.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectatio  | ns  | 13.0 to >11.0 pts<br>Partially Meets  |   | 11.0 to >0 pts<br>Does Not Meet   | 1 63        |
| Decision and justification     | Recommended discipline is<br>appropriate Recommended di<br>is supported by data analysis<br>Justification is provided for the<br>discipline consistent with print<br>good practices. Justification e<br>why other options are less des<br>applying the strengths and lim<br>of the data. Justification discup<br>possible implications of potent<br>disciplinary decisions. (14–15) | scipline<br>in Part 1.<br>ne<br>nciples of<br>xplains<br>sirable by<br>nitations<br>sses<br>tital | Recommended dis<br>is supported by da<br>analysis in Part 1.  | scipline<br>ta<br>ovided<br>inciples                        | Expectations<br>Recommended discipline<br>is inappropriate.<br>Recommended discipline<br>is insufficiently supported<br>by the data analysis in Part<br>1. Justification provided<br>for discipline is missing or<br>doesn't apply. (11 points or<br>fewer) | 15.0<br>pts |
| Outcome<br>Legal<br>Analysis   | Completely Meets<br>Expectations<br>Identifies possible legal<br>risks of chosen action and<br>other possible actions based<br>on data that is not available  | Identifies<br>chosen ac<br>data. Leg<br>provides  | Meets Expectations<br>s legal risks of<br>ction based on the<br>cal risk analysis   | Misap<br>incorre<br>associa<br>Fails t<br>resulti           | >0 pts<br>Not Meet Expectations<br>plies law or otherwise<br>ectly identifies legal risks<br>ated with their decision.<br>o identify key legal risks<br>ng from the chosen<br>on. (7 points or fewer)   | 10.0<br>pts |
| Outcome<br>Ethical<br>Analysis | 10.0 to >8.0 pts<br>Completely Meets<br>Expectations<br>Discusses other ethical<br>frameworks that may apply<br>and what decisions their<br>application may have resulted<br>in. (9–10 points)  | Expecta<br>Provide<br>decision<br>specific  | y Meets<br>ations<br>es justification for<br>n based on a<br>cally identified   | Does no<br>analysis<br>ethical<br>decision                  | 0 pts<br>fot Meet Expectations<br>ot provide an ethical<br>s. Does not use a specific<br>framework to justify<br>n. Misapplies chosen ethical<br>rork. (7 points or fewer)  | 10.0<br>pts |
| Outcome<br>Writing<br>Quality  | 5.0 to >4.0 pts<br>Completely Meets Expectatio<br>Writing is clear and concise.<br>There are very few spelling or<br>grammar errors. Ideas flow<br>from one paragraph to the new<br>There is structure to the<br>narrative. It is professional in<br>tone. (5 points)   | ns Partia<br>Writin<br>and co<br>unobt<br>at. gramm<br>struct                                     | ng is generally clear<br>procise. There are a<br>rusive spelling or<br>mar errors. There is<br>ure to the narrative.<br>ssional in tone. (4 | ions Doe<br>r It is<br>few The<br>erro<br>und<br>unc<br>ove | to >0 pts<br>es Not Meet Expectations<br>s not written as narrative.<br>ere are grammar or spelling<br>pors that impede<br>lerstanding. The writing is<br>lear or confusing. It is<br>rly long or short. (3 points<br>rewer)                                | 5.0<br>pts  |

#### Assessment-Level Competency from Financial Accounting (for PLC1)

FACT4: Evaluate ethical considerations in an organization's financial reporting environment.

Outcomes:

- > Recognize what makes a situation an ethical dilemma.
- > Identify the individual and organizational implications of unethical behavior.

- > Explain the consequences to all stakeholders if deceptive accounting information is communicated.
- > Provide appropriate responses to ethical challenges in an accounting setting.

This assessment uses the Ethics Decision Tree from the AICPA as its primary resource. *Additional resource added in Version 2:* IMA Statement of Ethical Professional Practice. This now provides a resource from the AICPA as well as the IMA.

#### Example Assignment #1

#### Directions

Download the Microsoft Word document below. For each scenario, develop a process to identify and evaluate the relevant ethical issues. Utilizing that process, provide an appropriate response that addresses the ethical dilemma. Justify your response by explaining why it is superior to the alternatives.

Ethical Considerations in Accounting

Ethical dilemmas are not uncommon in business and quite often accounting seems to be in the middle of these situations. For each scenario develop a process to identify and evaluate the relevant ethical issues. Utilizing that process, provide an appropriate response that addresses the ethical dilemma. Justify your response by explaining why it is superior to the alternatives.

- You are a new staff accountant and your primary job responsibility is to record sales and accounts receivable. Typically, you process a report from the sales manager to record these transactions. At the end of the year (December 31<sup>st</sup>) the company's top salesperson asks you to record a very large sale to a major customer. They tell you, "We need to get this sale in this year the customer is just a little slow with the paperwork".
- The beloved accountant for an important company in a small community is retiring after 40 years of loyal service. As their replacement you have had the opportunity to observe and learn over the past month from the retiring accountant. You haven't been able to pick up on as much as you would like because of the seemly constant flow of well-wishers. While independently looking over the company's accounting records you discover that a check for \$100 has been issued each month to the accountant and charged to miscellaneous expense. As far as you can determine this has occurred for several years.
- The corporate controller, your immediate supervisor, asks you to review the amount in the allowance for uncollectible accounts. After completing an aging schedule, you report back that the allowance seems more than adequate given the repayment history of the company's customers. After reviewing your work, the controller tells you to double the amount in the allowance as they have heard the economy will deteriorate during the next year. "You can never be too careful", the controller says.
- In your role as staff accountant you discover that the company president (and primary owner) has used the company credit card for purchases that are clearly not business related. You go to your supervisor for guidance and receive the following response, "Oh, they've been doing that for years. It used to bother me, but now I just hope it doesn't get out of hand. Go ahead and just pay it."

#### Overview

For this assessment, you will want to be able to:

- 1. Recognize what makes a situation an ethical dilemma.
- 2. Provide appropriate responses to ethical challenges in an accounting setting.

#### Purpose

Ethical dilemmas are common in business, and quite often accounting seems to be in the middle of these situations. The purpose of this assessment is to test your ability to identify and evaluate ethical issues and provide appropriate responses to ethical dilemmas.

- **Point Value**: 20 points
- Min. Required
- **Score:** 80%
- Allowed Attempts: 2
- Grading Time: 3 days

#### Evaluation

• There is a rubric associated with this assessment.

### **Grading Rubric**

#### Mastery With Distinction

Solution lays out a complete method or procedure for analyzing the ethical dilemma. Analysis covers all major sources of the ethical dilemma and uncovers most reasonable approaches for dealing with this dilemma. The ethical implications of each of these approaches are thoroughly explained. Thoughtful analysis of the merits of these approaches and defense of the selected approach complete the assessment.

#### Mastery

Solution lays out a reasonable method or procedure for analyzing the ethical dilemma. Analysis covers most major sources of the ethical dilemma and uncovers some reasonable approaches for dealing with this dilemma. The ethical implications of each of these approaches are logically explained. Adequate analysis of the merits of these approaches and defense of the selected approach complete the assessment.

#### Not Yet Mastered

Solution fails to lay out a reasonable method or procedure for analyzing the ethical dilemma. Analysis fails to cover most major sources of the ethical dilemma and fails to uncover some reasonable approaches for dealing with this dilemma. The ethical implications of each of these approaches are only vaguely considered. Poor or incomplete analysis of the merits of these approaches and incomplete defense of the selected approach end the assessment.

| Criteria          | Mastery with<br>Distinction   | Mastery  | Non-Mastery   |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Procedure (25%)   | Solution lays out a<br>complete method or<br>procedure for<br>analyzing the ethical<br>dilemma.   | Solution lays out a<br>reasonable method or<br>procedure for<br>analyzing the ethical<br>dilemma.  | Solution fails to lay<br>out a reasonable<br>method or procedure<br>for analyzing the<br>ethical dilemma. |
| Analysis<br>(50%) | Analysis covers all<br>major sources of the<br>ethical dilemma and<br>uncovers most<br>reasonable | Analysis covers most<br>major sources of the<br>ethical dilemma and<br>uncovers some<br>reasonable | Analysis fails to<br>cover most major<br>sources of the ethical<br>dilemma and fails to<br>uncover some   |

|                      | approaches for<br>dealing with this<br>dilemma. Thoughtful<br>analysis of the merits<br>of these approaches<br>and defense of the<br>selected approach<br>complete the<br>assessment. | approaches for<br>dealing with this<br>dilemma. Adequate<br>analysis of the merits<br>of these approaches<br>and defense of the<br>selected approach<br>complete the<br>assessment. | reasonable<br>approaches for<br>dealing with this<br>dilemma. Poor or<br>incomplete analysis<br>of the merits of these<br>approaches and<br>incomplete defense<br>of the selected<br>approach end the |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
|                      |   |   | assessment.   |
| Ethical Implications | The ethical   | The ethical   | The ethical   |
| (25%)                | implications of each  | implications of each  | implications of each  |
|                      | of these approaches   | of these approaches   | of these approaches   |
|                      | are thoroughly  | are logically   | are only vaguely  |
|                      | explained.  | explained.  | considered.   |

#### Example Assignment #2: Ethics & Internal Controls -A Research Study

Learning Resources for this project include Chapter 1 from *Financial Accounting: Information for Decisions* by John J. Wild as well as a reference to the fraud triangle in an ACFE presentation. It also includes an interview with Andrew Fastow, former CFO of Enron, in *Fraud Magazine. Additional resources included in Version 2 include Chapter 6 in the above-referenced textbook as well as a link to Betrayal, a story about a fraud that was committed against Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin. A link to the Purdue Online Writing Lab was also added, as well as an instructor-developed video as a refresher on APA citations. Appropriate citations were also added as a criterion in the rubric.* 

#### Purpose

The purpose of financial accounting is to provide various stakeholders (management, regulators, creditors, and investors, among others) with relevant and reliable information that they may use in their decision-making processes. When a company purposely publishes incorrect or misleading financial statements, this breach of ethics is called accounting fraud. The ramifications of accounting fraud can be immense and widespread. For example, the accounting fraud behind the Enron scandal resulted in investors losing over \$60 billion, cost over 4,000 Enron employees their jobs, and led to one of the largest accounting firms in the world going out of business. This project will allow you to look at all of the implications of unethical and fraudulent accounting activities, analyze the consequences of unethical or fraudulent activities for all stakeholders involved, examine how or why fraud occurs, and consider what the appropriate response to fraud is.

#### Process

You will be expected to research a legal case of your choice involving a company defrauding investors through accounting fraud. The deliverable for this project is a three- to six-page paper with source articles attached. You must receive instructor approval of your chosen fraud case before you begin your paper. You will receive feedback on your paper after the entire project is complete and submitted.

- Point Value: 100 points
- Min. Required Score: 80%
- Allowed Attempts: 2
- Grading Time: 3 days

#### Assumptions

This project covers information from competencies 4 and 5.

Before completing this project, you will need to have completed the following:

• Financial Accounting Competencies 1, 2, 3, and 6

#### Directions

For this project, you will be expected to research a legal case of your choice involving a company defrauding investors through accounting fraud. After researching this case, you will prepare a paper that does the following:

- 1. Describes the type of fraud that occurred
- 2. Describes what the implications of the fraud were in terms of the affected individual(s) and company
- 3. Analyzes what the consequences of this fraud were for all stakeholders (management, employees, customers, investors, etc.)
- 4. Examines how aspects of the fraud triangle (opportunity, rationalization, and pressure) led to this fraud occurring
- 5. Includes your own conclusion as to whether or not the company's response to the fraud was appropriate

A three- to six-page paper (not including source documents) is required. Please attach all articles (please, no links to articles, since they do not always work) or other information used in writing your paper.

**IMPORTANT** Before you begin, the fraud case you choose must be pre-approved by your instructor. Upload your case to the Project Pre-Approval area.

#### Evaluation

• There is a rubric associated with this assessment.

Procedure:

| 10.0 pts  | 8.0 pts  | 6.0 pts   |
|---|--|---|
| Completely Meets Expectations   | Partially Meets Expectations   | Does Not Meet Expectations  |
| Demonstrates a thorough<br>understanding of the fraud<br>perpetrated. | Demonstrates a general<br>understanding of the fraud<br>perpetrated. | Minimal description of fraud and/or a lack of understanding of the fraud perpetrated. |

#### Personal Conclusion:

| 10.0 pts   | 8.0 pts   | 6.0 pts  |
|--|---|--|
| Completely Meets Expectations  | Partially Meets Expectations  | Does Not Meet Expectations   |
| Thoughtful response indicating a thorough<br>understanding of corporate fraud and the<br>most appropriate ethical response based on<br>the information provided. | Thoughtful response indicating a general understanding of a possible appropriate response to the fraud. | Little, if any, thought given to<br>the fraud and what an<br>appropriate response to that<br>fraud might be. |

Research:

| 10.0 pts | 8.0 pts | 6.0 pts |
|----------|---------|---------|
|          |         |         |

| <b>Completely Meets Expectations</b>     | <b>Partially Meets Expectations</b>         | Does Not Meet            |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Extensive research completed to locate   | Appropriate and adequate research           | Expectations             |
| at least two sources of highly relevant  | completed to locate at least two sources of | Minimal research         |
| and reliable information to complete the | relevant and reliable information to        | completed. Irrelevant or |
| paper                                    | complete the paper.                         | unreliable sources.      |
| Grammar and Presentation                 | complete the paper.                         | unienable sources.       |

| 10.0 pts  | 8.0 pts  | 6.0 pts  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Completely Meets Expectations</b>  | Partially Meets Expectations   | Does Not Meet Expectations   |
| The paper is written in the students<br>own words. Few, if any, spelling and<br>grammatical mistakes. A well-<br>organized paper with a professional<br>look. | The paper is written in the<br>students own words. Minimal<br>spelling and grammatical<br>mistakes. A well-organized<br>paper. | Frequent spelling and grammatical<br>mistakes. Incorrect or irrelevant content.<br>Unorganized and unprofessional format<br>and presentation. Any form of<br>plagiarism. |

## Implications

| 20.0 pts  | 16.0 pts   | 12.0 pts  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Completely Meets Expectations</b>  | Partially Meets Expectations   | Does Not Meet Expectations  |
| Demonstrates thorough<br>understanding of the implications of<br>the fraud affecting the company and<br>employees involved. | Demonstrates general understanding<br>of the implications of the fraud<br>affecting the company and<br>employees involved. | Lack of understanding of the<br>implications of the fraud affecting<br>the company and employees<br>involved. |

## Analysis of Consequences

| 20.0 pts  | 16.0 pts   | 12.0 pts   |
|---|--|--|
| Completely Meets Expectations   | Partially Meets Expectations   | Does Not Meet Expectations   |
| Provides a thorough examination of the<br>consequences for more than three key<br>stakeholders because of this fraud. | Provides an adequate examination of<br>the consequences on at least three key<br>stakeholders because of this fraud. | Incomplete analysis of the<br>consequences for all<br>stakeholders because of this<br>fraud. |

## Examination of Fraud Triangle

| 20.0 pts                      | 16.0 pts                     | 12.0 pts                   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Completely Meets Expectations | Partially Meets Expectations | Does Not Meet Expectations |

|  | Demonstrates thorough<br>understanding of all three<br>components of the fraud triangle and<br>how all three components played a<br>role in the fraud perpetrated. | Demonstrates general understanding<br>of all three components of the fraud<br>triangle and how opportunity and<br>pressure played a role in the fraud<br>perpetrated. | Demonstrates little<br>understanding of any of the<br>components of the fraud triangle<br>and how they relate to the fraud<br>perpetrated. |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|---|--|--|